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Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League 'Concern' for Arabs in Romania

LD2712144289 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1410 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Text] Tunis, 27 Dec (SPA)—The Arab League has expressed astonishment at accusations, propagated by some antagonistic Zionist sources from outside Romania, on the participation of a number of nationals of Arab countries in recent events in Romania.

The Arab League has expressed concern during a number of contacts with the Romanian Embassy in Tunis over aggression committed against a number of Arab citizens as a result of such provocative statements and allegations. The statement, which was issued today by the Arab League Permanent Secretariat, asserted: Officials in Romania are expected to deny such antagonistic accusations and ensure that Arab citizens are not subjected to any maltreatment.

The statement affirmed that the Arab League and its member states estabish their relations upon the bases of reciprocal respect for sovereignty and noninterference in internal affairs and respect for the will of peoples to choose freely.

The statement pointed out that the Arab League aims, furthermore, to continue consolidation of ties with East European countries, proceeding from the principles and orientations adopted by Arab countries.

GCC Official Cited on Negotiations With Iran

PM2712153089 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 26 Dec 89 pp 18-19

[Interview with Sayf al-Maskari, Gulf Cooperation Council assistant secretary general for political affairs, by Wahib Muhammad Ghurab in Oman; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Ghurab] Has the end of the Iraq-Iran war changed the Gulf Cooperation Council's [GCC] course and orientations?
[Al-Maskari] On the contrary, with regard to the security aspect, the focus was, first, on how to confront the results of the Iraq-Iran war results. Now the focus is on laying the foundations and benefiting from that experience. [passage omitted]

[Ghurab] Can it be said that what was a security and military concern is now an economic concern?
[Al-Maskari] That is the real approach now.

[Ghurab] How do you view the continuation of Iraqi-Iranian negotiations and their chances of success?
[Al-Maskari] There are several facts which we must bear in mind: The war lasted 8 years; the cease-fire has been accepted; and the two parties have accepted Resolution 598, which is clear and includes 8 specific points. But we do not expect the negotiations to be easy. Because if the Iraqi-Iranian problem were easy, there would have been no war. There are interconnected problems, and time is needed to resolve them. But the reassuring thing is that the two parties have a desire for peace, irrespective of certain hard-line stances, which is natural because each party wants to benefit from the negotiations. But peace is the present inclination of the two parties. Proof of this is that Iraq is now developing border areas and demobilizing its military forces. And we hear that Iran has concluded contracts with foreign companies for development and is making appeals for participation. [passage omitted]

[Ghurab] Is there some kind of response from Iran to Gulf endeavors?
[Al-Maskari] Gulf endeavors are not direct endeavors by an intermediary, because, as I said, we do not want any duality. All endeavors should concentrate on backing the UN secretary general's efforts. And judging from Iranian officials' statements, there is an inclination toward peace.

[Ghurab] Do you believe that Rafsanjani's taking over will change Iran's political approach in practice?
[Al-Maskari] Rafsanjani's or anyone else's taking over is an internal Iranian matter that concerns the Iranians. But what has been proven is that the Iranian Government's general approach has changed since Rafsanjani's assumption of power, because we always hear positive statements. But that depends on his ability to carry out in practice what he says and promises.

[Ghurab] Some view Rafsanjani's orientation as nothing but maneuvers and say that he is following his predecessors' course.
[Al-Maskari] I say that we form our judgment according to the statements we hear from Rafsanjani. So to prove his credibility he must match his words with deeds, especially since all the statements reflect willingness to talk and bring about stability in the region.

[Ghurab] The Sultanate of Oman has made contacts with Iran as an intermediary between some Gulf states and Iran. Is there any indication of that mediation's success within the GCC framework?
[Al-Maskari] The Sultanate has indeed embarked on mediation on the basis that the intermediary should enjoy both sides' confidence—which is already so, thank God. The endeavors are made on the basis of the existence of principles in international relations which Iran accepts, such as good-neighborliness, noninterference in internal affairs, and suspension of media campaigns. But while Iran announces its response, we find that media campaigns and threats are still continuing, which does not help the issue. Despite the development of relations between the Gulf states and Iran, there is a weak point in Saudi-Iranian relations. I believe that if Iran wishes to develop its relations with the GCC states, it must be convinced of the need to improve its relations with Saudi Arabia.

[Ghurab] Some people in the Iranian parliament and the Iranian Government are asserting the need to improve relations and cooperation with the Gulf states in order to preserve oil resources. How do you view these appeals? [Al-Maskari] These appeals, or the statements by Rafsanjani or Foreign Minister Velayati, encourage us Gulf states to embark on normalization. But what is important to us is Iranian actions in practice. Because it is unacceptable for them to call for improved relations while there are still official campaigns by the Iranian radio and press against a GCC founder state.

Palestinian Affairs

Various Officials Respond to Events in Romania

'Arafat Meets With Ambassadors

LD2712181589 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Text] Brother President Abu-Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], head of the state of Palestine and Chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, has summoned the ambassadors of the socialist countries accredited to Baghdad.

The brother president expressed the PLO's extreme concern [words indistinct] behind the biased and false media campaign launched by Radio Free Europe and some Hungarian media organs in an attempt to drag the names of the Palestinians, Syrians, Libyans and other Arabs [words indistinct].

Brother President Abu-Ammar asked the socialist countries to cooperate in putting an end to the false and unjust campaign, which was initiated by Zionist quarters. [Words indistinct] relations of friendship and cooperation between our Palestinian people and Arab nation and the friendly peoples of the socialist countries. He stressed that what is happening in Romania is an internal affair, which primarily concerns the friendly Romanian people, as the PLO pointed out 2 days earlier in a statement by a responsible source. He said that we wish those friendly people all the best and every stability under their new circumstances and new government.

Qaddumi Promises PLO Aid

LD2712184489 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Text] In an exclusive statement to WAFA, Brother Abu-al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], head of the PLO Political Department, has announced: We felt worried as a result of the painful events which claimed numerous human lives in friendly Romania. With all the feelings of friendship and solidarity we wish the friendly Romanian people a quick return to a stable and constructive life.

The PLO will not hesitate to give everything it can, including medical and food aid, to the friendly Romanian people. Instructions have been given to all the Palestinian medical students in Romania to participate in rescuing the wounded and offer all possible assistance, after coordinating with the local authorities.

At the same time, we condemn the bloody events in Panama, which occurred as a result of the U.S. military invasion and blatant interference in Panama's internal affairs. It seems that the United States has two different standards for democracy, freedom, and human rights. On the one hand, the United States calls for these values whenever and wherever it wishes, and on the other hand it ignores them when the matter concerns the violation of these values in the occupied Palestinian territories, South Africa, the Latin American countries, and in the Third World countries in general.

From the beginning, the PLO adopted a policy of noninterference in the internal affairs of other countries. It also supported the right of all peoples to determine their destiny and their national independence according to the UN Charter and international law. The PLO is committed to this policy, and to the international legitimacy and the principles of nonalignment, positive neutralism, and constructive cooperation among the peoples of the world.

At the same time, the Palestinian revolution, under the leadership of the PLO, continues its march of struggle toward removing the Israeli occupation and enabling the Palestinian people to exercise their sovereignty over their national soil in their independent Palestinian state. The Palestinian revolution pursues freedom and peace for our people and for all the peoples of the world.

Violence in Romania Decried

JN2712194289 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Text] Brother Hakam Bal'awi, member of the Fatah Central Committee and PLO representative in Tunisia, yesterday received (?Albo), the Romanian charge d'affaires in Tunis. During the meeting they reviewed recent developments in Romania and the great sacrifices made by the friendly Romanian people to achieve freedom and democracy. Brother Hakam Bal'awi stated that the meeting also dealt with the acts and attacks on a number of Palestinian students and members of the Palestinian diplomatic mission in Romania—irresponsible acts which are not in harmony with the nature of the existing strong relations of friendship and cooperation between our Palestinian and Romanian peoples.

The Palestinian leadership is concerned to convey this to the Romanian Salvation Front to put an immediate end to these acts because of their very serious repercussions on the peaceful life of the Palestinians.

Radio Free Europe Accused of Anti-PLO Campaign

JN2712202089 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Text] A responsible PLO information source has stated the following:

Radio Free Europe has for days been launching a campaign aimed at distorting the image of the Palestinian people and the PLO by accusing it of taking part in the current events of friendly Romania. Although the PLO asserted its firm, principled support for peoples' right to democracy and freedom, Radio Free Europe has continued its accusations and tendentious campaign with the aim of depicting the Palestinian people as opposing democracy and freedom, in an attempt to impede an expected upturn in East European support for the Palestinian people and their cause.

Radio Free Europe, with its known links and objectives, is not a free forum. Rather, it is a political instrument faithfully serving the objectives and schemes of imperialist hegemony. This radio has been a major instrument in all campaigns against peoples' freedom and rights. It also has been an active instrument in exacerbating international tension and the Cold War. The West and East European peoples know that the Palestinian people are one of the world's most zealous peoples for democracy and freedom, precisely because they are the people who are most deprived of freedom and democracy. The Palestinian people are also subjected daily to all forms of repression, terrorism, and fascism by the Israeli occupiers, who commit all forms of repression, which, however, fails to move Radio Free Europe.

The Palestinian people and their leadership believe that peoples who demand their freedom will be more demanding of the Palestinian people's rights to independence, freedom, and democratic self-determination; that is, free of all forms of control, occupation, and repression. This is a bright fact which cannot be concealed by Radio Free Europe and the Zionist elements in it.

'Sources' Cited on Response to Baker Plan

PM2712171189 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 21 Dec 89 p 2

[Excerpts] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Egyptian Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi has confirmed that the Palestinian reply to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's points has been positive and that the final draft of the reply is being prepared.

In an exclusive statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Dr Sidqi said that Egypt will never act as a substitute for any party at the U.S.-Egyptian-Israeli tripartite meeting, pointing out that the PLO has the sole right and is the only party qualified to speak for the Palestinians.

He said that the purpose of U.S. Under Secretary of State John Kelly's visit to Egypt after the Malta summit was to brief the Egyptian leadership on the Malta summit talks in relation to the Middle East.

Meanwhile, informed sources told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Cairo that the United States and Egypt, in coordination with the PLO, are currently considering several formulas to ensure PLO participation in the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue in Cairo and all stages of the peace process. [passage omitted]

A reliable Palestinian source told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the U.S. Administration's attitude is positive, although not quite as satisfactory as the PLO would like it to be.

The source said that PLO circles are optimistic that the U.S.-Egyptian-Israeli foreign ministers' tripartite meeting will be held in the coming few weeks and will be followed by a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue in Cairo.

On Palestinian representation in the dialogue, the source said: The United States now is fully convinced that the PLO cannot be excluded from any stage of the peace process and that its participation is a guarantee of stability in the region. The source said that the United States has taken this position on the basis of its dialogue with the PLO in Tunis, its contacts with the parties to the conflict, the positions taken by West European countries, especially France, Italy, Spain, and Greece, and the attitude of the Palestinian people in the occupied territory.

18 Arrested for Involvement in Sidon Assault

JN2312180889 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 22 Dec 89 p 30

[Excerpts] Sidon, AL-ANBA'—Zayd Wahbah, secretary of the Palestinian National Action Command in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp, has announced that the investigation committee comprising three Palestinian officers formed to investigate the 15 December dawn assault on Syrian military personnel headquarters in al-Rumaylah and 'Alman north of the al-Awwali River has completed its mission. Wahbah added that the investigation committee took strict measures against those responsible for conducting the assault. He went on to say that the committee took other measures designed to ensure that such an assault is not repeated. [passage omitted]

AL-ANBA' has learned from Palestinian sources that 18 people have been arrested for their involvement in this incident, and that 4 of them will be transferred to Tunisia. The following are among those who will be moved to Tunisia: Samir Hasan, official in charge of the Islamic Unification Movement in the al-Miyah Wa Miyah camp; Abu-Hamad Za'rur, Fatah official; and 'Izzat Mansur from Fatah. Wahbah said that a detailed communique will be issued on this issue. [passage omitted]

PFLP-GC Cables Lebanese Communist Party

JN2712203689 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1700 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Text] The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] has sent a cable of greetings and solidarity to the Lebanese Communist Party following the Zionist aggression on southern Lebanon and the raid at one of the party's sites yesterday. The following is the text of the cable:

Greetings of struggle and revolution. We in the PFLP-GC send you our militant greetings and hail your glorious steadfastness and heroic confrontation of the heinous Zionist landing against your militant sites in western al-Biqa', and the savage shelling of your headquarters in the al-Rumaylah area. This aggression against the Lebanese Communist Party is but a confirmation of the fact that your great party is the pioneer of armed struggle and the vanguard of the Lebanese nationalist resistance. These Zionist-U.S. aggressions are only a link in the chain of aggression against your party, our national Palestinian resistance, and our blessed intifadah in Palestine. These aggressions will only increase our determination and persistence in resisting and confronting this enemy and foiling its schemes, because this enemy understands only the language of force, the language of using arms. We appeal to you and pledge to all martyrs that we will remain loyal to their mission and will work together to foil all capitulationist schemes in both the Lebanese and Palestinian arenas.

In conclusion, we appeal to you and to all sincere men and strugglers to act quickly to halt this bloodshed between brothers in the common jihad and struggle. May God preserve you for the sake of struggle. It is a revolution until the liberation of land and man.

[Signed] The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command

Algeria

Syria's Al-Shar' Delivers Note to Bendjedid

JN2712155589 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1454 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Text] Algiers, 27 Dec (SANA)—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has delivered a message from President Hafiz al-Asad to Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid dealing with the Arab situation. Present were Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmed Ghazali and the Syrian ambassador to Algiers, 'Abd-al-Jabbar al-Dahhak.

During the Algerian president's meeting with al-Shar', talks centered on bilateral relations between the two fraternal countries and issues of mutual interest.

Al-Shar' had arrived in Algiers yesterday from the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

Islamic Salvation Front Leader Interviewed

PM2112103189 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 19 Dec 89 pp 44-45

[Interview with Islamic Salvation Front "leader" Madani Abbasi by Salih Qallab in Algiers; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Qallab] Are you a party or a movement? What is the Islamic Salvation Front?

[Abbasi] We are a party and a movement. Our party is a party of a movement, and the front is a political organization concerned with the people's problems, all the people's problems. The proof of this is the draft program it has presented. The front was formed to confront developments in the crisis in all its political, economic, social, and cultural dimensions. It belongs to all the groups representing the Algerian people in these gloomy conditions. We consider it the legal framework through which the Algerian people are working to put a limit to their sufferings by achieving the desired solutions and restoring their status in order to contribute to the Islamic nation's progress and salvage humanity and civilization. [passage omitted]

[Qallab] Does the front aspire to reach power? And will you have a presidential candidate in the next elections?

[Abbasi] Elections are the means to reaching a solution. The state considers us the opposition. Opposition means disagreement, and we say there is a need for a change. But how can such a change be made? Via violence or dialogue. And we repudiate violence and say it wise to choose and adhere to dialogue. And the best way to conduct a serious dialogue is to refer the issue to the people so they can choose what they want. And we will accept any official the people choose.

[Qallab] As you are a political party and subject to the existing democratic game laws, will you have a candidate in the presidential elections?

[Abbasi] Yes, we will have candidates at all state levels, including municipalities, provinces, the National Assembly, and then the presidency; yes, why not? [passage omitted]

[Qallab] Some time ago it was said that you were involved in the problem of forming militias and arresting some people...

[Abbasi, interrupting] That question has ended and it is absolutely baseless.

[Qallab] Does that mean that you do not contemplate setting up your own militias?

[Abbasi] No, not at all. We are secure and safe. And anyone who thinks about a guard or guards actually fears something specific. As for us, we fear no one but God, and nothing threatens us.

[Qallab] Some see your absence from the revolution anniversary celebrations, which were attended by the other parties, as the start of a confrontation with the authorities. What truth is there in this?

[Abbasi] We did not attend the celebrations for several reasons, including the earthquakes, which caused destruction, claimed many lives, and inflicted severe psychological pain on us—which is why we could not attend the celebrations. How can we rejoice while the people are mourning and grieving? How can we relax while the people are in pain? We think that the celebrations were wrong this year. In fact the proper thing would have been to cancel the celebrations after the disaster occurred. But because we cannot impose our view on others, we imposed it on ourselves; we are free to do so. They tried to interpret that position differently, but this is the truth.

Egypt

'Full Diplomatic Relations' Resumed With Syria

NC2712185889 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Joint statement issued by Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi and Syrian Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi on the resumption of full diplomatic relations on 27 December; released simultaneously in Cairo and Damascus]

[Text] Believing in the close bilateral relations between the two Arab peoples in Egypt and Syria;

Recalling the bright pages of their joint struggle throughout Arab history against the challenges which have confronted and may confront the Arab nation;

Expressing pride in their original Arab affiliation and their adherence to the Arab League Charter and the legitimate national rights of the Arab nation;

Realizing the potential consequences of contemporary international developments and their expected repercussions on the Arab world;

Convinced of the need to bring about a comprehensive Arab accord, which provides a solid foundation for joint Arab action to safeguard the interests of the Arab nation and to realize the Arab people's ambition to achieve progress and prosperity; and

In their attempt to express the two peoples' firm determination to bolster fraternal relations in the various fields, the Governments of the Syrian Arab Republic and the Arab Republic of Egypt have agreed to resume full diplomatic relations as of today, Wednesday, 29 Jumada al-Ula 1410 Hegira, corresponding to 27 December 1989.

[Signed] Egyptian Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi and Syrian Prime Minister Eng Mahmud al-Zu'bi

Value of 'Healthy Relations' With Syria Extolled

JN2512114789 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 22 Dec 89 pp 4-6

[Article by chief editor Makram Muhammad Ahmad: "Egypt Complements Its Arab Relations"]

[Excerpts] If Egyptian-Syrian rapprochement means that Egypt has consolidated its Arab relations while maintaining the homeland's dignity and affirms the sincerity of the Egyptian approach toward pan-Arab issues, the concord also means a conclusion to an era of Arab disunity and estrangement that has wasted a great deal of Arab effort in peripheral battles, and has scattered Arab strength against many dangers which continue to threaten the Arab world. [passage omitted]

I need not state the special value of healthy relations between Damascus and Cairo to both countries. The Cairo-Damascus argument, regardless of its motives, eventually undermines Arab strength and denies both capitals additional factors of strength which would be present if they were linked by a common understanding and sound perspective. This is the lesson of history and geography as demonstrated by the ambitions of the Moguls, Tartars, and Crusaders.

Moreover, the lesson of history tells us that the value of Damascus-Cairo relations at the current stage lies in directing these relations in the interest of Arab concord, causing no anxiety for any other Arab parties or groups, and being able to consolidate the current broad Arab trend, which is adopting a rational and realistic perspective in accordance with the spirit of the age.

Through a sincere and open vision, Egypt has managed to strike a balance between being a member of the Arab Cooperation Council, which includes Iraq, and its interest in a sincere and honest dialogue with Damascus. This stand stems from Mubarak's clear and open rejection of axis politics and his sound belief that such politics have been disastrous for the Arab world. Cairo's close ties with Baghdad should not be construed as contradictory to sound relations with Damascus. This is because the role of Cairo is to serve as a bridge of concord and solidarity and to help, within its capabilities, to heal Arab wounds and prevent these wounds from embargoing an indispensable joint Arab action toward the current world changes.

Likewise, the Cairo-Damascus dialogue should not contravene the responsible Egyptian stand on the Lebanese issue—a stand that insists on the departure of all non-Lebanese forces and approves the special relations between Damascus and Beirut within the framework of a responsible understanding of Lebanon's right to the independence of its will and decisionmaking.

Nobody demands that all stands be identical or similar, as this should be achieved through a sincere dialogue that takes into account the need to maintain Arab accord in order to reach common convictions, as well as the possibility of diverse political action to reach common objectives. Similarly, it is one of the conditions of a healthy and serious dialogue to recognize the majority's right to decisionmaking, if unanimity is not feasible.

The Egyptian-Syrian rapprochement is no less important than the Egyptian-Libyan one. If Libya, in terms of geography, constitutes to Egypt a regional extension without a natural barrier and a demographic extension bolstered by blood relations, Syria, in terms of history, constitutes an embodiment of Egypt's Arab role toward pan-Arab security issues. I do not think anyone can forget the comradeship of arms in the glorious October war.

The Egyptian-Libyan dialogue has broadened its scope over a short period of time and is now entering a new, practical stage aimed at implementing a number of joint ventures for the benefit of the two countries. This is basically due to the policy of frankness, which has laid down a sound basis for bilateral relations right from the beginning.

It was the frankness between President Mubarak and Colonel al-Qadhdhafi that led to this common conviction that the Arab-Israeli conflict is essentially a cultural one which the Arabs should win through a serious effort to establish a solid production base based on advanced technological capability, which would be built up by intrinsic Arab power, because as Col al-Qadhdhafi said, "without economic, technological, and cultural superiority, it will be difficult to talk about our ability to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict."

It was the frankness between them which led to this common conviction that agreement among Arab political leaders to establish unity might not be a sufficient guarantee for the continuation of unity or strength. What will guarantee the strength and continuation of unity is that it should begin from the ground up, from the direct interests of the masses, and from agreement on coordination on up to integration and agreement on integration in order to attain unity.

It was the frankness between them that led to joint recognition of the Palestinians' right to hold dialogue with the Israelis on an equal footing with the aim of securing legitimate Palestinian rights.

It was the frankness between them which led to a joint understanding stressing that estrangement and isolation are foolishness and stupidity, that fragmentation and division impede the Arab nation's capabilities, and that Arab reconciliation alone is the guarantee for the continuation of the march.

I have no doubt that the Egyptian-Syrian dialogue will be characterized by the same frankness for the purpose of reaching a true and accurate understanding that establishes a sound basis for bilateral relations which becomes an additional force serving Arab reconciliation without stirring the anxiety of any Arab party. These relations will bolster the course of the large Arab current, which seeks a rational and practical vision commensurate with a new age of accelerating changes, and will tell us with perfect clarity: Without intrinsic Arab power, Arab rights becomes marginal and will be easily ignored or squandered.

Prime Minister Returns To Cairo From Syria

NC2712181489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1807 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Text] Cairo, 27 Dec (MENA)—Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi returned to Cairo this evening following a brief visit to Syria which lasted several hours.

During the visit, Dr Sidqi delivered a message to President Hafiz al-Asad from President Husni Mubarak. The message was part of the contacts which are taking place to rectify the status of relations between the two countries.

Romanian Envoy Supports National Salvation Front

NC2412213689 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2110 GMT 24 Dec 89

[Text] Cairo, 24 Dec (MENA)—The Romanian ambassador in Cairo has asked the Egyptian Foreign Ministry to regard him as the representative of the Romanian National Salvation Front which seeks to achieve democracy and freedom.

After meeting with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, today the Romanian ambassador said in a statement to the newspaper AL-AKHBAR to be published tomorrow, Monday, that he presented himself to the foreign minister as the representative of the front and a supporter of the front's national program.

The ambassador said that Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid told him that he agrees to the ambassador remaining as Romania's representative in Egypt and promised Egypt's support to the Romanian people to end the present critical situation. The Romanian ambassador said that he will devote his efforts to serving the cause of his country in its quest to achieve democracy for the people.

Foreign Ministry Supports Romanian Measures

NC2712152389 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1441 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Text] Cairo, 27 Dec (MENA)—A responsible official in the Foreign Ministry has declared that Egypt supports the steps taken by the Romanian National Salvation Front to reestablish democracy, as envisaged by the Romanian people.

In a statement issued by the ministry today, the official said the Arab Republic of Egypt congratulates the Romanian National Salvation Front on its accomplishments at the domestic level. The statement, however, notes that the trial of former President Nicolae Ceausescu was not conducted publicly. There was hope that this trial would be conducted in such a way as to give the former president legal gurantees in keeping with the current democratic spirit and the sovereignty of the law. The statement expresses Egypt's best wishes for the friendly Romanian people's progress and hopes the amicable relations and cooperation between the two peoples will continue.

Commentary on Arab Involvement in Romania

NC2712203889 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1840 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Bahiy-al-Din Shu'ayb commentary carried within the "Talking Newspaper" program]

[Text] Some international news agencies are circulating a strange story about the Arabs. It is claimed that citizens of Syria and Libya and members of the PLO fought on the side of the Romanian secret police in defense of former Romanian ruler Ceausescu. Syria, Libya, and the PLO hastened to deny this report categorically as soon as it was carried by world radio and television stations, describing it as a form of the blatant hostility to the Arab world. It is also true that some Romanian leaders hastened to deny the report. However, we should consider the significance of this attack on the Arabs so we can analyze it, discern its aims, and benefit from its lessons.

Some circles hostile to the Arabs have exploited the presence of a large number of Arab students at Romanian universities. They also exploited the fact that a large number of those students are Syrians, Libyans, and Palestinians. They fabricated a story about these Arab students' participation in the fight against the Romanian people's revolution. The choice of Syria, Libya, and the PLO was in keeping with the general atmosphere that has been created against these three for some time now and the claims that they encourage and even practice terrorism.

Exploiting the recent conditions in Romania, the ugly fighting, and the inhuman massacres perpetrated by Ceausescu's supporters, which gained world sympathy for the heroic Romanian people who sacrificed tens of thousands in defense of freedom, this story was fabricated implicating Syria, Libya, and the PLO and accusing them of participation in these massacres. Naturally, those people who harbor no affection for Arabs in general and these three in particular may believe this fabricated story. We believe that the main objective here was to attempt to revive the talk about Arab terrorism, which had started to die down. Some people sought to exaggerate what traces of this talk remained, hoping that some people would listen and thus start a campaign of hatred against everything that is Arab.

The PLO has renounced terrorism in official statements and world public opinion as a whole believes the PLO is insincere in this. Thus the attempt to involve the PLO and other Arabs in the Romanian issue seeks to cast doubt on the Palestinian stand on terrorism, particularly as the whole world knew that there were good relations between the PLO and the Ceausescu regime. Hence, this story and its implications might lead some to believe that the PLO has reneged on its pledges to renounce terrorism and has started to practice it in Romania on the side of a regime detested by the Romanian people and the entire world.

We believe that this story should make the Arab world review its media plans within the framework of the Arab League so it can be more capable of confronting such lies.

PLO's Al-Surani on 'Arafat-Mubarak Talks

NC2612140089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1100 GMT 26 Dec 89

[Text] Cairo, 26 Dec (MENA)—Jamal al-Surani, member of the PLO Executive Committee, has said that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Cairo and his talks with President Husni Mubarak were intended to exchange views on Arab developments and the current efforts for an Arab political move regarding the Palestinian issue, as well as future efforts and preparations prior to the tripartite meeting in Washington.

In a statement to MENA, he noted that views during the talks were identical. As usual, he said, President Mubarak was clear in his support for the Palestinian cause, the Palestinian people, and their right to self-determination and establishment of an independent state. He affirmed that they agreed to pursue their consultation and contacts.

Al-Surani said: We are proceeding on the road and we are determined to reach peace. By their courageous intifadah, the Palestinian people are confirming this fact. He pointed out that the party stalling the peace process is Israel and the U.S. stand—which is not absolutely clear so far—adopts the Israeli view. This however, he said, does not prevent us from remaining adherent to the peace, which guarantees security and peace for the Palestinian people.

Iraqi Payments to Egyptian Workers Received

JN2312170789 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 21 Dec 89 pp 1, 4

[By 'Abd-al-Nabi 'Abd-al-Sattar]

[Excerpts] The fourth installment of the sum agreed upon by the Iraqi and Egyptian Governments to repay the remittances of the Egyptian workers in Iraq arrived yesterday. The payment amounts to $10 million. Earlier, another $30 million had been remitted within a month. The last payment will arrive next week. [passage omitted]

AL-WAFD has learned that the purpose of President Saddam Husayn's anticipated visit to Egypt is to solve any unsettled problems created by Egyptian workers' remittances and due wages. The visit is also intended to assert the strength of Egyptian-Iraqi relations on both the popular and official levels. President Husni Mubarak and President Saddam Husayn will discuss the possibility of solving the outstanding problems between Iraq and Syria.

Arab diplomatic sources in Cairo have said that President Mubarak will work during the next stage to convince Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Iraqi President Saddam Husayn of the need to hold a joint meeting in order to approximate their viewpoints.

Iraq To Transfer $45 Million Monthly

NC2612205989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1847 GMT 26 Dec 89

[Text] Cairo, 26 Dec(MENA)—The Iraqi Government has decided to make a monthly transfer of $45 million to the al-Rafidayn Bank and other banks in Cairo with which the Iraqi Central Bank deals. This will be done at the rate of $15 million every 10 days beginning in January in order to pay the arrears owed to Egyptian workers.

This was announced by Iraqi Ambassador to Egypt Nabil Najm, who added that $10 million was transferred to Cairo today on the instructions of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. This sum was the last installment of the $50 million which Taha Yasin Ramadan, Iraqi first deputy prime minister, announced would be paid first when he visited Cairo in November.

Najm added that in this way $50 million of the arrears owed to Egyptian workers were paid in the past 50 days.

'Abd-al-Majid Leaves on 'Short Visit' to Iraq

NC2512101889 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 25 Dec 89

[Text] Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, left Cairo for Baghdad this morning on a short visit to Iraq during which he will deliver a message on bilateral relations from President Husni Mubarak to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

Mubarak To Participate in Sudanese Peace Talks

NC2612132389 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2305 GMT 25 Dec 89

[Text] Cairo, 25 Dec (MENA)—Colonel Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, member of the Sundanese National Salvation Revolution Command Council [SNSRCC], has declared that Sudan made an official request to President Husni Mubarak to undertake an initiative to hold peace talks in Cairo on the problem of southern Sudan. He said this is due to the fact that both the Sudanese Government and the John Garang movement have full confidence in President Mubarak and hope peace will be reached in the Egyptian capital.

In a statement to be published in Tuesday's AL-AHRAM, Col Khalifah said the letter he had handed yesterday to President Mubarak from Sudanese Leader Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir contained this request. He added that he had explained to President Mubarak the developments in the issue of the South and pointed out the two parties' desire that Cairo be the venue for the next round of talks, which President Mubarak will call for and participate in as an active party in order to bring the viewpoints closer. He added that President Mubarak had agreed to do so.

Regarding the Garang movement's request to abrogate the standing military agreements, the SNSRCC member said his government will not abrogate the military agreements since it believes this matter to concern an act of sovereignty. However, should an agreement be reached with this issue being the only outstanding matter left, it could be discussed along with other issues as part of the measures to build the new Sudan, he added.

The SNSRCC member added that as of 1990, Sudan will start implementing the decisions made by the national dialogue conference, including applying the federal rule system. He said an administrative conference will be held in February to discuss the application of the federal system, the responsibilty of the federal states, and their relations with the central administration. He said a preparatory 8-member committee of experts is now making the necessary arrangements to convene the conference, which will be attended by all the Sudanese provinces. He said with the introduction of the federal system, the so-called problem of sharia laws will be over, since each region will have the authority to apply and disregard laws.

Zaki Badr Says Bomb Reports 'Mere Allegations'

NC2612143589 Cairo MENA in English 0903 GMT 26 Dec 89

[Text] Cairo, Dec 26 (MENA)—Interior Minister Zaki Badr today said that reports carried by some broadcasts on the faltering of security in Egypt following the recent explosion of a car bomb in Cairo were mere allegations and prove that these (?broadcasts were well versed) in the Egyptian affairs.

In an exclusive interview with MENA, the interior minister said that Egypt's police will counter all kinds of terrorism and fanaticism.

Asked whether the recent car bomb accident was a new start of a new wave of terrorism in Egypt, the interior minister said that the [words indistinct] policeman realises that the criminal activity never ceases for crime was a social phenomena that started with the beginning of mankind.

He further urged the people to cooperate with the police to counter outlaws, asserting that the means to be used to combat terrorism will always be within the law and the Constitution.

Interior Minister Zaki Badr regretted that the international federation for human rights was keen on rights of the criminals and did not consider the rignts of the victims or the rights of the peoples.

Speaking of the outcome of his recent tour of the Gulf Arab states and the recent Arab interior ministers conference held in Cairo, the Egyptian official said that although security cooperation has been maintained even during the period when the political relations were frozen, yet cooperation has been given a great push following the restoration on Egyptian Arab ties.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Phones Romania's Iliescu

LD2812132289 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1230 GMT 28 Dec 89

[Text] A telephone call took place between the brother leader of the revolution and Ion Iliescu, president of the People's Committee for National Salvation in Romania, in order to set his mind at rest regarding the progress of the popular revolution there.

The president of the People's Committee for National Salvation reassured the brother leader of the revolution regarding the successful progress of the popular revolution in Romania. The president of the People's Committee for National Salvation saluted the attitudes of the great Al-Fatih revolution and the Libyan Arab people to the Romania people and its revolution. President Iliescu informed the brother leader of the revolution that the popular revolutionary leadership does not believe the rumors about the participation of Arabs in the fighting against the popular revolution and said that those rumors were spread by enemies in order to influence our morale, the progress of the popular revolution, and our friendship with the Arabs.

President Iliescu confirmed to the brother leader of the revolution that authority will be that of the people because the popular revolution was carried out by the whole Romanian people.

President Iliescu expressed his thanks for and appreciation of the Libyan Arab people for the urgent humanitarian assistance provided by air to the Romanian people.

Arab Brotherhood Denies Involvement in Romania

EA2812080689 Omdurman Domestic Service in English 1950 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Text] The Libyan Arab Brotherhood Office in Khartoum issued a statement today [27 December] denying the participation of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah in the recent events in Romania. The statement reaffirmed the adherence of the Jamahiriyah to its constant and declared position on the right of nations to determine their destiny and to free themselves of dictatorial regimes.

The Libyan Brotherhood Office in Khartoum said such allegations were baseless.

Consular Agreement With Romania Signed

LD2812115189 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1103 GMT 28 Dec 89

[Excerpts] Tripoli, 28 Dec (JANA)—This morning at the People's Bureau for External Liaison and International Cooperation in Tripoli, a consular agreement between the Jamahiriyah and Romania was initialled. [passage omitted]

The signing of this agreement falls within the framework of consolidating relations of friendship and cooperation in various fields between the Jamahiriyah and Romania.

Sudan

Al-Bashir Gets Messages From Yemeni Presidents

EA1912185689 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 19 Dec 89

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, National Salvation Revolution Command Council [NSRCC] chairman, has received two verbal messages from President 'Ali 'Abdullah Salih, president of the Yemen Arab Republic (YAR), and President Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, president of the PDRY.

The two messages are connected with measures aimed at completing unity between the two parts of Yemen and at the announcement of the union. They came as his excellency received at his office in the Republican Palace this morning the ministers of transport in the two countries, who are also envoys of the two Yemeni presidents.

The political adviser to the NSRCC chairman said that Lt Gen 'Umar welcomed the positive developments concerning Yemeni unity. The two envoys spoke about the political importance of the region. They referred to the Israeli threat facing it, particularly since Ethiopia resumed its relations with the Zionist enemy. The adviser added that Lt Gen 'Umar drew attention to the dangers of this Israeli presence to the states of the Horn of Africa, as well as its threat to navigation in the Red Sea.

The meeting was attended by Mr 'Ali Ahmad 'Abd al-Rashim, minister of transport and communications, the Sudanese ambassador to Sana, the YAR ambassador to Khartoum, and the PDRY charge d'affaires in Sudan.

Junta Member Sees Libyan Trade Delegation

EA1912183989 Khartoum SUNA in English 1612 GMT 18 Dec 89

[Text] [dateline indistinct]—Member of the Revolutionary Command Council [RCC] Brigadier al-Tijani Adam al-Tahir has received here today the visiting Libyan trade and agricultural delegation. Chairman of the delegation, Ahmed Musa Abu Fraira, said the encounter reviewed cooperation between the two countries in the (?spheres) of agriculture [words indistinct].

Libya Agrees To Expand Trade Relations

EA2312111789 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 22 Dec 89

[Text] Meetings of the Sudanese and Libyan sides concerning agricultural investment and trade exchange between the two countries were concluded yesterday at the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

The two sides agreed to solve all the obstacles and problems that faced the implementation of the protocol concluded between the two countries, and to expand trade.

The Libyan side agreed to earmark $10,000,000 for importing goats and sheep from Sudan, $8,000,000 for cereals and fodder, and $9,000,000 for oil seeds, yarn, and perfumes. In return, Sudan will buy fuel, chemicals, fertilizers, cement, and caustic soda from Libya. Minutes of the agreement between the two sides will be signed this morning at the Grand Hotel in Khartoum.

Al-Khalifah Briefs Arab Envoys on Peace Efforts

EA1912183889 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 18 dec 89

[Text] Colonel Muhammad al-Amin al-Khalifah, National Salvation Revolution Command Council member, met at his office in the Friendship Hall this morning ambassadors of the fraternal Arab states in Sudan. Colonel al-Khalifah enlightened the ambassadors fully on the peace negotiations which took place in Nairobi recently between the government's delegation and Garang's movement.

He briefed them on the revolution's course in dealing with the southern problem peacefully through negotiations. The colonel briefed the ambassadors on some documents relating to Garang's movement, and explained to them the Israeli cooperation in the Horn of Africa and the effect of it on Garang's movement.

Radio Views Egyptian Role in 'Southern Problem'

EA2012211589 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1325 GMT 20 Dec 89

[From "Today's Subject" program]

[Text] Reports have come in about confirmed statments from Brigadier Faysal 'Ali Abu-Salih, National Salvation Revolution Command Council member and minister of the interior, that Egypt is working toward containing the southern problem. Reports have also quoted Mr 'Ali Ahmad Sahlul, the foreign minister, that Egyptian-Sudanese contacts are going on now to hold the next round of talks between the government and the rebel movement in the Egyptian capital, Cairo.

These confirmed reports and statements carry weighty indications and meanings that the government side has not lost hope in achieving peace through negotiations and that the National Salvation Revolution continues to maintain its pledge to achieve peace and stability in all parts of the country through dialogue—the people's sole option—and not by other means.

These confirmed reports also signify that sister Egypt has made and continues to make sincere efforts to prepare the atmosphere and create the proper ground to enable the sons of one homeland to sit round one table and enter into discussion and dialogue to bring closer the points of view of the government and the rebel movement and to eliminate misunderstanding resulting from the crisis of lack of trust between the two sides.

Sister Egypt's appreciated concern about the issue of war in southern Sudan and the efforts she is making to stop it arises from a deep and conscious understanding by the Egyptian officials that the ongoing war in the south of the country is not just a Sudanese issue, but an issue which concerns Egypt above all and consequently the brothers in the Arab world, and beyond them the states of the African Continent.

The states of the world are no longer islands isolated from one another. The lack of stable security in Sudan undoubtedly reflects negatively on sister Egypt as well as on the other Arab and African neighbors. Arab and African existence as well as African and Arab interests will continue to be under threat as long as the danger is looming over them and the enemy is getting ready to pounce on them through the southern gate.

Here is Israel bolstering the rebel movement in southern Sudan, not only with equipment, weapons, and men, but also by planning, managing, and implementing military operations. This calls for Arab-African, if not international, moves to put a stop to this creeping danger. This can be done by thwarting the Zionist design aimed at threatening the Arab-African existence. Sister Egypt's attempts to contain the southern problem represent one of the appreciated attempts to thwart that design. Egypt, with its weighty position in the middle of the Arab-African world and with the status enjoyed by its leader as the OAU chairman, is capable of curbing this war and stopping it through continuing the efforts which have been made and continue to be made by Sudanese diplomacy aimed at correcting the mistaken view, given currency by the movement's media and other anti-Arab and anti-Muslim media to establish it in the minds of some African leaders.

Consequently, there is need to convince African leaders to stop giving material, moral, and information assistance to the rebel movement until it regains its reason and submits to the language of reason and logic with a true and sincere intention and with the wish of solidifying the pillars of peace and stability in the country through negotiations and not through war and infighting.

We said, following the conclusion of the Nairobi peace talks, that the mere fact of acceptance by the sons of the one homeland to sit round one table must be regarded as a success and an achievement. We said that it was a step which should be followed by others. The road to peace is long and difficult. It, that is, peace, cannot be achieved in a matter of a day. Peace will come sooner or later. The matter requires patience and perserverance. We need a just, strong, and durable peace. We do not want a temporary and flimsy peace which fails to achieve justice and equality for the sons of the one homeland.

Regardless of whether people differ or agree on the outcome of the Nairobi talks and regardless of whether they judge them as a success or a failure, they were definitely a turn in the road to a hopeful peace. We shall certainly attain it, particularly as the decisions and recommendations of the national dialogue conference for peace received acceptance and support from the movement. The talks ended with agreement on the need to hold a national constitutional conference to draw up a permanent constitution for the country.

We only hope that the movement will first agree to sit at another round of talks with the government delegation in Cairo and that it will come to the talks, this time, without any prior conditions, and that it will show some flexibility so that the obstacles and points of difference, which prevented the Nairobi talks from reaching the desired goal, can be transcended.

These days, as we live through days commemorating the anniversary of attaining independence from within parliament, we wish to recall the unanimity of the deputies, despite their ideological and party affiliations and their geographical tendencies, on achieving freedom, sovereignty, and independence for Sudan. We say: How much in need we are today for such unanimity to achieve the goals and objectives of our country, in this post-independence stage, for construction, development, stability, peace, and prosperity.

Egypt's appreciated efforts have renewed our hopes to achieve peace throughout the country. For this reason we rely on them because of the hopes we attach to the forthcoming Cairo talks and the hopes that the goals and objectives which the previous rounds of talks have failed to achieve will be achieved there. May God grant us success.

Al-Bashir's Use of Food as 'Weapon' Assailed

EA2212204489 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in Latuka 1120 GMT 22 Dec 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] Listeners, greetings to you all. As you all know, 'Umar al-Bashir's junta would like to implement the shari'a laws in our country, and refuses to solve the country's problems through peaceful means, but rather through war. In fact, according to him, war is the only solution to the country's problems. 'Umar al-Bashir, therefore, is no different from the former Sudanese president, Ibrahim Abbud, who during the first Anyanya I war against the Khartoum regime, wanted to solve the country's problems militarily.

Recently, we received some information, saying that the reason why 'Umar al-Bashir stopped the United Nations and Red Cross relief flights was that the government was prepared to shoot down any plane carrying relief food to the south. This, listeners, again means that Al-Bashir is committed to using food as a weapon. These planes are not only carrying food, but also medical supplies for the suffering people in the south. Al-Bashir also would like to take advantage of the many diseases in the south as another weapon.

Ummah Party Condemns 'Illegal' Trials, Killings

EA2312192689 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 22 Dec 89

[Text] The Ummah Party, in a statement, strongly condemned the illegal summary trials and killings of politicians, trade unionists, and businessmen in the Sudan, and called on the free press, human rights activists, and democratic governments to exert maximum pressure and expose the barbaric behavior of the Muslim brothers military government in the Sudan that is threatening the lives of 300 political detainees held hostage by the military junta in the Sudan to guard against any popular uprising.

On Sunday, the Sudanese people marched in masses behind the coffin of the young businessman, Majdi, who was killed by the junta government, to demonstrate their rejection of the killing and the bloody barbaric behavior of the Muslim brothers' junta government. They also demonstrated their support and solidarity with the family of the young businessman, who contributed greatly to the modern economic development in the Sudan and played a great role in propagating its cultural background.

We would like to warn 'Umar al-Bashir and his Islamic Front party against destroying the features of forgiveness and the peaceful brotherly attitude, which have characterized our Sudanese society for the past decade. As violence breeds violence, they—being the minority—would be the losers. We also warn the officers in charge of the military tribunals that we hold them responsible for the lives of those innocent people killed as a result of their unlawful verdicts.

Food relief in southern Sudan: The Ummah Party condemns the Muslim brothers military government in the Sudan for their policy of death by starvation, pursued in the south of Sudan.

They are using food as a weapon in the civil war in the south, and bringing to a halt the food supplies under Lifeline Operations, pioneered by the former prime minister, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, and executed by the Red Cross, under UN supervision. We call on the United Nations to move to save the lives of our people in the south, with or without the Muslim brothers military government concerned.

We have reliable information that the Muslim brothers military government is currently planning a terror campaign against voluntary agencies carrying out relief work in southern Sudan, by effecting a number of air strikes on the Red Cross food stores and bases inside the south of Sudan, and on the borders with Kenya and Uganda. They will continue their policy of denouncing unknown foreign planes responsible for the raids, as they have in the past months, while military planes take off from al-Ubayyid, Ad Damazin, Juba, and Khartoum airports.

The Ummah Party, with its partners in the National Democratic Alliance, will continue stepping up struggle against the military government of the Muslim brothers in the Sudan, undeterred by their campaign of terror.

Official Says 2,600 Refugees Flee Ethiopia

EA2112182189 Khartoum SUNA in English 0922 GMT 21 Dec 89

[Text] Khartoum 21 Dec (SUNA)—2,600 Ethiopian refugees have crossed the Sudanese eastern border due to the drought and insecurity the refugees commissioner Brig Abd al-Rahman Sirr al-Khatim announced.

Brig Sir al-Khatim said that the increase of refugees influx has a negative effect on Sudan. He called on the international community to increase its assistance to the areas affected by refugees influx.

"Measures have been taken in collaboration with the refugees high commissioner to provide refugees with food supplies and medical services," the commissioner added.

Editorial on Mubarak Al-Mahdi, Garang Meeting

EA2312193789 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1320 GMT 22 Dec 89

[From the press review]

[Text] AL-INQADH AL-WATANI devoted its editorial to talking about the news that the fugitive Mubarak 'Abdullah al-Fadil al-Mahdi, the most prominent symbol of corruption and subversion during the hateful partisan era, recently made a stop in Addis Ababa to meet the leader of the rebel movement. He offered his services to him, and pledged himself to the cause of the enemies of the homeland and agents of Zionism and the routed communism.

Under the heading, For Those Who Become Feeble, Disgrace Comes Easily, it said: It seems the fugitive politician, who dreamed of inheriting the rule of Sudan a day after he had moved between four ministries within 3 years, has finally become convinced of the futility of his leadership of the imaginary opposition against the revolution in the fog capital or one of the isles of the Mediterranean Sea. Perhaps his partners among those who imagine and dream of returning to the seat of government have not allowed him to be their symbol, or a facade for their opposition with all that he represents for Sudanese individuals and all those who have knowledge of the political experience in Sudan during the past 3 years.

The newspaper continues: the tragedy of the fugitive Mubarak al-Fadil is that he has started seeking a position for himself among the rebels at a time when the rebel movement has begun its final journey, after it has suffered successive military and political defeats, and after racial and ideological in-fighting has [word indistinct] inside it. It is expected that the movement will explode from within and collapse at any moment, after its exposure and the concentration of evidence and proof of the bloodiness of the movement, and its rejection of peace, the most recent proof of which is the incident with the Doctors Without Frontiers aircraft yesterday.

AL-INQADH AL-WATANI concludes its editorial by saying: The Salvation Revolution is proud enough that its opponents are the like of the fugitive Mubarak al-Fadil, and it is proof of the general national consensus for its leadership and the unity of its internal front that the opponents of the revolution can find no work other than in Garang's trenches, against whom the stranglehold has tightened and the siege intensified, thanks to our Armed Forces.

If the failure of the recent plot by the communists, which aimed at splitting the internal front and shaking the ranks, has exposed the extent of deadly isolation from the masses that the enemies of the revolution are experiencing, then this step by fugitive Mubarak al-Fadil confirms that the alleged opposition has reached total desperation, and therefore it has embarked on suicide. For those who become feeble, disgrace comes easily.

Culture Minister Outlines Federal System

EA2012225989 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 Dec 89

[Text] Mr 'Ali Muhammad Shummu, the minister of culture and information and the official government spokesman, has said that the federal system will be applied next year according to a program which will reduce central control.

Control will be transferred in an organized way to the regions and in a manner linked to the federal system. The federal system will be applied according to the decisions approved by the Council of Ministers within the recommendations of the national dialogue conference.

Mr 'Ali Shummu also stressed in press statements that the rural Koran schools will be developed in the eastern region by adding new subjects which will enable these schools to discharge their duty.

Shummu stressed the readiness of the government to hold a third round of talks with the rebel movement at any time provided it is held in Cairo, since President Mubarak is the current OAU chairman.

Cabinet Hears Regional Government Report

EA2112095489 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 Dec 89

[Text] The Council of Ministers held its regular meeting this morning under the chairmanship of Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, Revolution Command Council chairman and prime minister. The council heard a report from Major General Yusuf Bashir Siraj, governor of the Eastern Region about the performance of the regional governments.

The report reviewed the performance in the economic sector and referred to the agricultural and industrial policies of the region and the development plan and programs which emphasize infrastructure in the field of agricultural development and the provision of the necessary services in the areas of production to ensure food security.

It also referred to the investment plan which had already been drawn up as an urgent priority to direct work in the region. The report also dealt with the financial situation and the general and development budgets of the region.

The report referred to the guidelines which the regional government was following which aimed at reducing the suffering of the citizens, by fighting corruption and the black market, and by controlling markets, fixing prices, and supporting agricultural production to achieve self-sufficiency.

The report also dealt with the security situation in the region and reviewed the security problems from which the region is suffering resulting from the influx of refugees and displaced persons from the other regions and smuggling. It pointed to the government's efforts to solve these problems.

The report also dealt with performance in the services sector: education, health, housing, transport and communications, pointing out the regional government's policies and programs to develop them and to raise them to higher levels.

The report also dealt with the native administration in the region and pointed to the measures taken to complete the organ relating to it, so that it could be a tool to serve the objectives of security and stability.

The report contained reference to the achievements of the popular salvation committee in the region in mobilizing support for the Armed Forces to rout the rebels.

The meeting was also attended by political supervisors from the Eastern Region, Darfur, and Equatoria Regions, the Northern Region, Kurdufan and the military governor of Bahr al-Ghazal.

Bahrain

Saudi King Fahd Concludes Visit to Manama

Joined by Saudi Minister

JN2412113289 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1000 GMT 24 Dec 89

[Excerpt] Manama, 24 Dec (WAKH)—Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal arrived in Manama from Riyadh this morning on a visit to Bahrain to join the delegation accompanying King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, who currently is on a private visit to Bahrain. [passage omitted]

Holds Talks With Amir 24 Dec

JN2412114689 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1100 GMT 24 Dec 89

[Excerpt] Manama, 24 Dec (WAKH)—A round of talks was conducted in Manama at noon today between His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah, amir of the State of Bahrain; and his brother King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud of Saudi Arabia, custodian of the two holy mosques. [passage omitted]

Departs for Riyadh 24 Dec

JN2412143889 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1355 GMT 24 Dec 89

[Excerpt] Manama, 24 Dec (WAKH)—His Majesty King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia, custodian of the two holy mosques, today left Manama for Riyadh following a 2-day private visit to Bahrain. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

PDRY, YAR Emissaries Meet Crown Prince

EA2112132089 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 20 Dec 89

[Text] Brothers Salim Muhammad Jibran, candidate member of the Political Bureau and minister of fish resources, and Muhammad 'Ali Muqbil, minister of health in the northern part of the homeland, this morning in Kuwait met Shaykh Sa'd al-Abdallah al-Salim Al Sabah, Kuwaiti crown prince and chairman of the Council of Ministers.

At the meeting, Brothers Salim Jibran and Muhammad 'Ali Muqbil conveyed a verbal message from brothers 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party Central Committee and Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih; president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces and secretary general of the General People's Congress; to his highness Amir Jabir al-Ahmad Al Sabah, amir of the State of Kuwait, concerning the latest developments in moves towards achieving Yemeni unity.

Oman

Sultan Comments on Oil Market Stability, Economy

JN2512152489 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 25 Dec 89

[Text] His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id has emphasized that the Sultanate is eager to play a full role in stabilizing the global oil market. Expressing his optimism over a stable oil market in the future, his majesty the sultan said that he will continue to work energetically toward that end. It is imperative that every effort be made to attain oil market stability in the interests of both producers and consumers alike.

In statements published in the most recent issue of the British MIDDLE EAST ECONOMIC DIGEST, his majesty said he was happy to see other oil producers both within and outside OPEC determined to achieve that goal. This issue ought to be addressed responsibly and objectively, since unstable prices adversely affect global economics and politics, he said.

On diversification of sources of the Sultanate's national economy, his majesty said that since he assumed power, he has made it a priority that national income sources be diversified in preference to a policy of complete reliance on oil. He indicated that infrastructure early on received a great deal of attention in the development process. Positive stirrings are beginning to be felt, with light industries making decent progress. He hoped that the next few years would see the Sultanate attain self-sufficiency in agricultural produce.

His majesty stated that fisheries and other non-oil sectors have shown positive outputs. Other non-oil projects hold out the promise of comparable success. His majesty underscored the importance of the private sector and its key role in diversifying the sources of the national economy. The Omani Development Bank—the governmental financial agency reponsible for subsidizing the private sector projects—is also contributing significantly to nurturing the private sector's projects and training graduates of vocational colleges.

On welfare in the Sultanate, his majesty said that with God's help, and supported by our people, we have achieved successes of which we can be proud. He added that Oman now counts as a modern state and noted that this goal has been realized without compromising our traditions, culture, and creed, which has been the inspiration for and the driving force behind our successes during the lean years.

Sultan Qabus Receives PRC President on Arrival

JN2612143089 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 26 Dec 89

[Excerpt] His Excellency Yang Shangkun, president of the People's Republic of China [PRC], arrived in the country this afternoon on an official 3-day visit to the

Sultanate in response to an invitation extended by His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id.

The PRC president was accorded an official welcome upon arrival. His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id headed the receiving delegation. [passage omitted]

Holds Official Talks

JN2712150089 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Text] A round of official talks between His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id and the president of the People's Republic of China [Yang Shangkun] currently visiting the Sultanate upon a the invitation of the sultan, started this morning at al-'Alam Royal Palace.

The round of talks was attended on the Omani side by Qays Bin-'Abd-al-Mun'im al-Zawawi, deputy prime minister for financial and economic affairs; Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs; Ahmad Bin-'Abd-al-Nabi Makki, minister of civil service; His Highness Haytham Bin-Tariq Bin-Taymur, foreign ministry under secretary for political affairs; and Mushtaq Bin-'Abdallah Bin-Ja'far, accredited ambassador of the Sultanate to China. On the Chinese side, the meeting was attended by the official delegation accompanying the Chinese president.

Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, stated after the round of talks that during the round they reviewed bilateral relations between the two countries. His majesty the sultan and the Chinese president expressed their complete satisfaction with the level of relations between the two countries.

In a statement to the OMANI NEWS AGENCY, his excellency pointed out that they also noted the continuous cooperation between the two countries. The Chinese president thanked his majesty the sultan for the great hospitality accorded him, especially upon his arrival, from his majesty the sultan and the Omani Government, as well as from the citizens.

Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah said in his statement that talks also dealt with the situation in the region. The sultan briefed the Chinese leader on the results of the 10th summit of the Gulf Cooperation Council's [GCC] heads of state and the GCC states' policy to continue their efforts to succeed in establishing peace and neighborliness between Iraq and Iran.

He added that his majesty the sultan thanked the Chinese president for his country's stands on this framework in China's capacity as a UN Security Council permament member. The Chinese president affirmed his country's continuing support for the efforts of the GCC states and the role of the UN secretary general to solve the issue of negotiations between Iraq and Iran.

The minister of state for foreign affairs mentioned that during the talks they comprehensively reviewed the level of trade cooperation between the two countries within the framework of agreements signed between the Sultanate and China.

He described the Omani-Chinese talks as a new development because the Chinese president's visit is the first by a Chinese president to the Sultanate. He also described the Chinese president's visit as very successful by all accounts and said that it will witness positive developments in the coming stage.

On this topic, he pointed to existing agreements between the two countries. He said that they will develop within the framework of the joint committee in all fields, including political ones.

He added that the joint committee will continue to meet alternately in Muscat and Beijing to discuss means of developing relations in all fields. He pointed out the mutual wish of both sides to increase cooperation.

PDRY

Union Affairs Minister Details Merger Plans

JN2512130989 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 22 Dec 89 p 17

[Interview with Rashid Thabit, minister of state for union affairs in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, PDRY, by Sana' al-Sa'id in Cairo; date not given]

[Text] [Al-Sa'id] The unity plan between the two Yemens calls for a united leadership, one Foreign Ministry, one Defense Ministry, and one currency. There were claims that the PDRY has reservations on achieving unity steps that would reach this level. What is the truth about this?

[Thabit] There were no reservations on the part of the PDRY with regard to the unity process because the program of the Yemen Socialist Party and the constitution affirm that the basic task of the party and the Government is to achieve Yemeni unity as a basic tenet. Consequently, the big steps taken in the past were on this path. There was discussion only on whether there should be a transitional confederation formula for merging the Foreign and Defense Ministries. This proposal was made by our brothers in the north. Meanwhile, we presented the issue of old agreements and called for working in accordance with the constitution as a formula that was the outcome of unity efforts throughout the past 15 years. We discussed this issue and agreed with the brothers in the north that other steps would be taken to complete the discussion of the constitution and to hold a referendum on it and elect a new parliament. The period defined to complete the referendum procedure is 12 months. Then, there will be a transitional period to elect the new parliament and the new government departments.

[Al-Sa'id] Does this mean that the PDRY has no reservations on the issue of merging the leaderships and the Foreign and Defense Ministries?

[Thabit] There are no reservations at all. This is because the issue is a natural outcome of the steps accomplished. After endorsing the draft constitution, there will be no room for discussion because the constitution means a complete merger.

There were proposals here and there, but I do not know how they reached the media and how they were put in this framework contained in your question on the basis that South Yemen rejected the merging of the Foreign and Defense Ministries. I would like to say here that this did not happen. What happened is that there is a draft constitution and there are agreements that will be implemented.

[Al-Sa'id] But, has the rapprochement in the political views between the two Yemens reached the extent of accommodating the merger in all areas?

[Thabit] There are many areas in which the two countries concur completely; there is no contradiction on the ground or on the level of the economic and social procedures that will be taken. Naturally, the views inside any society might include some differences, and there might be some interpretations. Some groups and parties might also have their own trends. Therefore, we presented the issue of party pluralism, under whose aegis the people will have the right to express their opinions, convictions, and choices. However, the reality remains the criteria of the practice. This calls on us to lay down a formula or a program that will be accepted by 80 percent of the politicians in the north and south. For this, I say that the differences are not great, and that there is an inevitable rapprochement in political views.

[Al-Sa'id] In light of the framework of the unity of Yemen in terms of a unified strategy for the Red Sea littoral states and in light of the strategic PDRY position that controls Bab el-Mandeb, will you and North Yemen share this responsibility in the wake of unity?

[Thabit] The Red Sea has a great significance that calls on all of us to protect and safeguard it. We side with any trend of the Red Sea littoral states. At the same time, we call on these countries to take a unified stand on any developments related to the Red Sea, particularly since the two parts of Yemen have a strategic position. Therefore, such an issue is taken into consideration in the united Yemen. We will share the responsibility, which will be a basic one. We will always side with any movement to unite the positions of the Red Sea littoral states.

[Al-Sa'id] What will be the status of North Yemen in the Arab Cooperation Council after unity? Will this unity produce any legal gaps?

[Thabit] We have blessed this organization from the beginning. We discussed how to lay down the relationship with this Arab grouping. Frankly, we are basically interested in the issue of the Yemen unity, which is an obvious issue. However, on the other hand, we consider ourselves in the Arab grouping, and the other procedures that might be taken in the future will be left up to the unity state.

[Al-Sa'id] Some people believe that the unity state might upset some neighboring states. Is this true? Do you not fear that this anxiety might be passed on in the future?

[Thabit] The unity of Yemen is the will of the people; it is difficult for us to go back on it or relinquish it for the sake of the desire of anyone, because it is the will of the people. It must be achieved. If any difficulty emerges, it will be confronted within the framework of this united popular will. However, I do not believe that at the present time there are signs of any attempt by any party to oppose the unity, or stand in its way. Everyone is convinced that unity is a factor of stability, whether for the unity state itself or for the neigboring states. It threatens no one's interests.

Qatar

UK's Waldegrave on Iran-Iraq 'New Initiative'

JN2612160289 Manama WAKH in English 1536 GMT 26 Dec 89

[Text] Doha, Dec 26 (GNA)—The British Minister of State for Foreign Affairs William Waldegrave called for a new initiative to achieve peace between Iraq and Iran.

There is a pressing need today for stepping up efforts by the beginning of the year in this regard to shift the peace process to a new positive stage, he added.

In an interview with Qatari 'AL-'ARAB' newspaper the British minister said his country as a permanent member in the Security Council believes that restoring a just peace between Iraq and Iran granting each country its own right is an important and necessary objective.

The absence of diplomatic relations between Britain and Iran he said is considered a diplomatic set back.

He warned against the partition of Lebanon and underlined that dismembering Lebanon would lead as well to partition of other countries in the region. In this connection Britain he added supports the efforts of the tripartite Arab committee set up for resolving the Lebanese crisis.

The British official said he believes the expected meeting between an Israeli and a Palestinian delegation would be an accomplishment and symbol for breaking the foundation of outright rejection to direct dialogue. At the same time the dialogue would remove away the idea which contends that it is impossible for Israelis and Palestinians to sit together at the negotiations table, he added.

The holding of a dialogue between an Israeli and Palestinian delegation would constitute a gate way to taking other positive steps including the reaching of an agreement on holding an international conference and would boost the stand of the Israelis calling for entering into negotiations with the Palestinians on all issues.

Saudi Arabia

Oman Agrees To Demarcate Common Border

LD2312134589 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 23 Dec 89

[Text] The following joint communique was issued today, Saturday, at the conclusion of the visit by the servant of the two holy places King Fahd Bin-Abd-Al-'Aziz al-Sa'ud to the fraternal Sultanate of Oman:

At the fraternal invitation of His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id, sultan of Oman, to his brother, the servant of the two holy places King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud of Saudi Arabia, paid a private visit to the Sultanate of Oman from 21 to 23 December.

During this visit, the two great monarchs conducted talks in an atmosphere of true brotherhood and complete trust, during which they examined the situation in the region, the development of Arab and Islamic issues, and various topics of common interest. Viewpoints have been in agreement on all issues discussed.

The two monarchs have expressed satisfaction at the continuing growth of bilateral relations and their development for the good of both countries, and they have reaffirmed their determination to further strengthen cooperation and promote common interests.

On the other hand, proceeding from the ties of kinfolk and neighborliness, and in affirmation of the excellent and strong fraternal relations existing between the Sultanate of Oman and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the two monarchs have agreed to the demarcation of the border between the two fraternal countries.

King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz has expressed thanks and appreciation for the generosity and hospitality accorded to him at both popular and official levels, which confirms the depth of ties and relations existing between the two fraternal countries.

Tehran Claims Egyptian 'Revolutionaries' Arrested

NC2412183289 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 24 Dec 89

[Text] The Al Sa'ud regime recently arrested 40 Muslim revolutionaries in Hejaz and handed them over to the Mubarak regime.

This was announced by the Organization of the Islamic Revolution in the Arabian Peninsula. It said the Al Sa'ud secret security organs received a secret report from the Egyptian intelligence service about the presence of a group of Egyptian Muslim revolutionaries in Hejaz. They were arrested following a raid on their premises and handed over to the Egyptian regime.

The organization added the Saudi regime has acted the same way in the past, when it arrested an active member of the Tunisian Islamic intifadah and handed him over to the Bourguiba regime. He was later executed.

The organization also sent an urgent appeal to those concerned with human rights, asking them to exert pressure on the Saudi regime to release religious struggler Tahir al-Shimimi, who has been imprisoned and tortured since mid-June without being charged or tried. The Saudi regime's security organs arrested Tahir al-Shamimi and six other Muslims in al-Safawi and al-'Awamiyah.

Iranian Allegations Denied

LD2612152189 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0755 GMT 26 Dec 89

[Text] An authorative source has made the following statement to SPA: In one of its news bulletins broadcast last Sunday, 24 December, Tehran Radio alleged the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia recently arrested 40 Egyptians and handed them over to the Egyptian Government.

The radio also alleged in another news bulletin the same day that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has been asked to free the person it named Tahir al-Shanini, who was described as a religious figure.

The radio also claimed the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia detained a Tunisian, handed him over to Tunisia, and that he subsequently was executed.

The source added that while these reports are groundless and aim, as it is known, at mere machination and scheming, we would like to reiterate our determination not to enter into propaganda vituperations with the Iranian mass media for the sake of noble and pure directions.

The source added we have risen above and disregarded a number of deliberate insults and groundless accusations during the past months in the hope the Iranian mass media will realize the farsightedness of this stance in which we believe, and that it will not be misunderstood, so we will not be compelled to break silence and face up to the Iranian media campaign with the necessary measures it requires.

Yemen Arab Republic

Salih, PDRY's Al-Bid Briefed on GCC Tour

JN2512133489 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Dec 89

[Text] Brothers Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, secretary general of the General People's Congress, and 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party, received at the Presidential Palace this morning brothers Dr Muhammad 'Ali Muqbil, health minister, and Salim Muhammad Jubran, candidate member of the political bureau and fisheries minister in our southern half of the homeland. The ministers briefed them on the outcome of their tour of Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] member states made in the context of a joint political effort by the two halves of the homeland to explain their unionist action, particularly since the signing of the historic Aden agreement on 30 November. The two ministers said the GCC leaders have underscored their support for the unionist moves aimed at reunifying the Yemeni homeland to serve the goals and aspirations of the Arab nation for comprehensive Arab unity.

Further Talks Held

JN2512133889 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Dec 89

[Text] Brothers Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, and 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the Central Committee of the Yemeni Socialist Party, this morning met in closed session at the Presidential Palace. They discussed implementation of the historic Aden agreement and evaluated the work of unionist committees, as well as reviewing issues of common interest.

Libyan Chief of Staff on 'Several-Day Visit'

Arrives in Sanaa 26 Dec

JN2612175789 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 26 Dec 89

[Text] Brother Colonel Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, commander in chief of the Armed Forces in the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, arrived on a several-day visit to our country.

In a statement to the SABA' news agency, Col Jabir expressed happiness at visiting Sanaa, the historic capital of united Yemen. He said: We have come to Sanaa to congratulate the Yemeni people on this great achievement and on steps to unite the north and south into one state on the road to realizing the comprehensive unity of the Arab nation. He stated this will realize the hopes of the Yemeni masses and is an advanced, qualitative step toward attaining Arab unity from the Arabian Gulf to the Atlantic Ocean.

Col Jabir noted he will discuss Arab and international developments with the brother officials.

He was received by Brother Staff Colonel 'Abdallah Husayn al-Bashiri, chief of staff and Standing Committee member; Staff Colonel Sa'id Muhammad Ghanim, deputy chief of state for training; the director general of the public relations department in the Armed Forces; a number of Armed Forces and security officers, and Milad al-Jadid, the charge d'affaires of the Libyan brotherhood office [embassy] in Sanaa.

Confers With President

JN2612212289 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 Dec 89

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, received in his office today Brother Colonel Abu Bakr Yunis, commander in chief of the Armed Forces in the fraternal Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, who conveyed to the president greetings from Brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September Revolution in Libya, to the president and the Yemeni people on the advanced steps on the road to realizing Yemeni unity.

He voiced the support of the Libyan leadership, government, and people for the efforts to restore Yemeni unity, which constitutes a major pillar the comprehensive Arab unity, the great aim of the Arab nation's masses—a unity that will enhance the nation's ability to face challenges and realize glory and progress.

The president voiced deep apreciation for this noble stance, affirming Yemeni unity is a firm addition to the Arab existence and a genuine expression of the Arab masses' hopes and aspirations. He asserted the restoration of the Yemeni homeland's unity will enhance the region's security, stability, and peace and serve the Arab nation's supreme interests.

During the meeting Arab developments and issues of joint interest were discussed.

The meeting was attended by Colonel 'Abdallah Husayn al-Bashiri, chief of staff and Standing Committee member.

Makes Statement, Leaves

JN2712133889 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Text] Brother Colonel Abu-Bakr Yunis Jabir, commander in chief of the Armed Forces in the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, left Sanaa this morning after a 1-day visit, during which he delivered a message to the brother Leader Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih from his brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September Revolution.

Col Jabir said in a statement to SABA' news agency that his meeting with the leader president was very interesting and dealt with the various issues of joint interest. He said he conveyed greetings of the Libyan leadership on the progressive steps taken toward reuniting the land and people in the two parts of the homeland.

He was seen off by Staff Colonel Sa'id Muhammad Ghanim, deputy general chief of staff for training affairs and head of public relations in the Armed Forces General Command; the Libyan charge d'affaires in Sanaa; and Embassy staff.

Italian Prime Minister Arrives in Sanaa 27 Dec

JN2712210089 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Excerpt] Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti arrived in Sanaa this evening on a 3-day official visit at the invitation of Brother 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, prime minister and member of the Standing Committee. He will hold talks on developing various spheres of cooperation between the two countries and review Arab and international developments. [passage omitted]

Meets With President

JN2812085489 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 28 Dec 89

[Text] Brother leader President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih yesterday received Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti and the delegation accompanying him. They discussed bilateral relations between the two fraternal countries, means of promoting them, and expanding joint cooperation between the two countries in economic and cultural fields. They also discussed issues and developments on the Arab and international scenes in light of current international changes. Foremost of these issues were the Palestine question and the Lebanese situation. The brother leader president expressed our country's appreciation of Italy's role within the EC in pushing forward the Middle East peace process. It is doing this by expediting the start of the international peace conference, based on recognizing the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people. He praised the Italian government's support for the just national rights of the Palestinian Arab people and expressed satisfaction with the growth of relations between the two countries. He expressed confidence the Italian prime minister's visit will help enhance and promote cooperation between the two friendly countries in all areas of joint interest.

President Salih informed the Italian prime minister of developments aiming to restore Yemeni unity. He said the process is a restoration of the unity of one country that was divided and torn apart by the imamate and colonialism. The unity, he added, will help strengthen peace and security in the region and support world peace. He expressed hope the current European developments and the upcoming European unity will help establish equal international relations in a way that boosts world peace and achieves stability and happiness for all peoples.

For his part, the Italian prime minister expressed delight at visiting our country and congratulated the brother leader president on the unionist steps in Yemen to restore unity and embody the Yemeni people's aspirations. He reviewed the host of current developments in Europe, pointing out the international detente will help enhance world peace and consequently, render success to talks aimed at reducing arms in Europe and cutting down armament budgets in favor of development.

The Italian prime minister stressed his government's readiness to expand and promote the relations of friendship between the two countries in economic, cultural, and other developmental fields.

Salih Talks With French Defense Minister

JN2812092889 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 28 Dec 89

[Text] Brother leader President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih yesterday evening received French Defense Minister Jean-Pierre Chevenement. They discussed issues of bilateral cooperation and a number of Arab and international issues. The French minister stressed there is much room for serious cooperation between the two countries in economic, cultural, and other fields.

SABA' news agency has learned the relations between our country and France will progress further and grow in the interests of the peoples of the two friendly countries.

Libyan Envoy Brings Message From Al-Qadhdhafi

Meets With Saddam

JN2712190689 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1710 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Dec (INA)—His Excellency President Saddam Husayn this evening received Colonel Abu-Bakr Yunis, secretary of the Libyan General People's Committee for Defense Affairs. Col Abu-Bakr Yunis conveyed an oral message from Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to His Excellency President Saddam Husayn on bilateral relations and Arab affairs. During the meeting, Col Abu-Bakr Yunis was accompanied by Colonel Salih al-Duqi.

The meeting was attended by Sa'dun Hammadi, Revolution Command Council member and deputy prime minister; and the Libyan charge d'affaires in Baghdad.

Confers With Industry Minister

JN2712191289 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1730 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Text] Baghdad, 27 (INA)—Husayn Kamil Hasan, minister of industry and military industrialization, met this evening with Colonel Abu-Bakr Yunis, secretary of the Libyan General People's Committee for Defense Affairs.

Col Abu-Bakr Yunis extended his congratulations to the industry minister on the scientific accomplishment scored by Iraq by its successful test-launch of the al-'Abid satellite carrier rocket system, and declared that this accomplishment pushes the Arabs to an advanced phase of scientific and technological development. He added that this is a source of pride to all Arabs.

During the meeting, the minister of industries and military industrialization reviewed Iraq's persistent endeavors to make scientific progress in various spheres in order to enhance the Arab nation's standing among the community of nations.

Departs Baghdad 27 Dec

JN2712191789 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1800 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Dec (INA)—Colonel Abu-Bakr Yunis, personal envoy of brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to His Excellency President Saddam Husayn and secretary of the Libyan General People's Committee for Defense Affairs, left Baghdad this evening at the conclusion of a brief visit to Iraq.

Col Abu-Bakr Yunis expressed pleasure over visiting Iraq and meeting with His Excellency President Saddam Husayn. In a statement to INA, he said: During this visit I conveyed a message to President Saddam Husayn from his brother leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi on the current situation in the international and Arab arenas. He added: I also discussed with Iraqi officials Iraqi-Libyan ties in general. Our views on the topics discussed were close to one another.

'Aziz, 'Arafat Discusses Intifadah Developments

JN2712151089 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1300 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, today met with Yasir 'Arafat, president of the State of Palestine.

During the meeting they discussed the latest developments pertaining to the Palestine question in light of recent events on the Arab and international scenes. They also discussed the situation in the occupied territories in view of the escalation of the popular Palestinian intifadah against the occupation troops. Their talks also dealt with a number of Arab and international issues of common interest.

The meeting was attended by the deputy of the official in charge of the Arab Liberation Movements Desk at the Revolution Command Council, the acting director of the Arab Department at the Foreign Ministry, and the Palestinian ambassador in Baghdad.

Editor Rejects Linking POW Exchange, Pullout

JN2612211189 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1655 GMT 26 Dec 89

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Dec (INA)—The INA political editor has said that Iran must reevaluate its standpoint and adhere to internationally recognized agreements on the mandatory and comprehensive exchange of prisoners without any preconditions. This was stated in a commentary he wrote today on what some Iranian officials and their media organs have been saying concerning their insistence on not settling the subject of prisoners of war and their use of an unsuccessful method to exert pressure on negotiations.

The editor pointed out that the issue of prisoners is not a political one and should not be confused with any other issue in negotiations. It is a humanitarian issue subject to international agreements. The Iranian side must respect them and release the prisoners without any preconditions, regardless of the results of negotiations.

The political editor called to mind the continuous initiatives declared by Iraq through President Saddam Husayn; namely, most recently that of forming the five committees, one of which was the prisoners' committee.

He said Iraq knows that military operations have stopped since 8 August 1988 and that the Geneva agreement stipulates the release of prisoners immediately after hostilities cease. However, the Iranian regime has rejected this and has used the subject of prisoners, which is a losing card, while ignoring these agreements. The political editor ridiculed the subject of linking this humanitarian issue to the issue of withdrawal. He pointed out what Iraq has affirmed—that the Iraqi troop pullout is a political issue to be discussed simultaneously with the subject of sovereignty over the Shatt al-'Arab waterway, because Shatt al-'Arab is historically an Iraqi Arab waterway. This is why Iraq does not accept linking discussions of Iraqi withdrawal with the release of prisoners.

The INA political editor affirmed in the conclusion of his commentary that the Iraqi stand is firm on the necessity of carrying out a comprehensive exchange of prisoners, including the sick and wounded, based on the stipulations of the 1949 Geneva Convention on prisoners of war, regardless of the results of the negotiations.

UNIIMOG Commander Arrives in Baghdad

JN2712121289 Baghdad INA in English 1140 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Text] Baghdad, Dec 27, INA—Yugoslav General Slavko Jovic, commander of the Unitd Nations Iraq-Iran Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG) arrived here today coming from Tehran.

General Jovic's visit comes within the frame of his shuttle tours between Tehran and Baghdad to observe the work of the observer group in charge of a cease-fire between Iraq and Iran.

He was received at the airport by several officers of a coordination body with the international observers.

Foreign Minister Responds to Events in Romania

Delivers 'Official Statement'

TA2712122289 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Excerpts] The Israeli Government and the new Romanian Government are maintaining full diplomatic relations. This announcement was made in the Knesset by Foreign Minister Moshe Arens this morning. Minister Arens, speaking on behalf of the Israeli Government, condemned the massacre of the Romanian people that was perpetrated by members of the Securitate.

The Knesset is currently discussing the developments in Romania and Panama. Dov Gilhar, our correspondent in the Knesset, reports:

[Gilhar] Following a week of silence while the revolution raged in Romania, Israel today officially announced: We in Israel are full of admiration for the bravery of the Romanian people which led to the revolution. The foreign minister had already issued a congratulatory statement on 24 December, when the breakthrough toward liberation in Romania became evident. Today in the Knesset, Arens delivered an official statement by the Israeli Government.

[Begin Arens recording] We in Israel are full of admiration for the Romanian people and their bravery, which led to the democratic revolution in Romania, and offer our assistance to the new transitional leadership in Romania. The Israeli Government and the new Romanian Government maintain full diplomatic relations. Israel condemns the terrible massacre perpetrated by Ceausescu's security forces in Romania. [end recording]

[Gilhar] Arens then appealed to the television regime in Bucharest, saying that he hoped no harm would come to the Jewish community in Romania and that it would be protected.

The foreign minister also addressed democratic developments in Panama and announced that Israel would soon send its ambassador back to Panama City. Arens told the Knesset about a letter received by the Israeli representative in Panama City from the new Panamanian president.

[Begin Arens recording] In this letter, the Panamanian Foreign Ministry offers its best wishes for the progress and prosperity of the State of Israel and its hope that friendly relations between the two countries will be strengthened. [end recording]

[Gilhar] The foreign minister reports that Israel asked Washington to defend the Jewish community in Panama against harassment and looting. The foreign minister did not address the actual U.S. invasion of Panama.

In the shadow of the democratic developments taking place around the world, the foreign minister declared that Israel is the only real democracy in the Middle East. [passage omitted]

The debate in the Knesset dedicated to the events in Romania and Panama is still continuing.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 1100 GMT on 27 December adds that "the foreign minister said 1989 will go down in history as marking a victory for democracy and a defeat for communism." The report adds that "on Panama, Arens said that in Latin America as well, democracy is prevailing, as yet another country in that part of the world has rid itself of its dictator. He recalled that in May, Israel expressed dismay when General Noriega prevented the leadership elected into power from taking over. Arens said Israel recognizes that leadership, and he said he has been in contact with his Panamanian counterpart to wish him success and to express the desire of close binational ties."]

Announces Recognition of Regime

TA2712202589 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Moshe Arens has said that Israel recognizes the new Romanian regime. Minister Arens made these remarks to our Knesset correspondent. This clarification was requested after several Knesset members [MK's] expressed amazement at the noninclusion of an explicit declaration of the Israeli recognition of the new regime in Romania in the foreign minister's address to the Knesset. [passage omitted]

On another issue, Mr Arens told our correspondent that Mike Harari, the adviser of Panama's former ruler General Noriega, is not acting on behalf of the State of Israel. [passage omitted]

And more on Panama: Speaking in the Knesset, various MK's leveled criticism at the role played by Israeli national Mike Harari at the side of ousted Panamanian ruler Manuel Noriega. [passage omitted] Our correspondent Hanan 'Azran adds that Mike Harari is in touch with his family, and does not intend to return to Israel at present.

Links Moves in Europe, Mideast

TA2812064289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 28 Dec 89

[Text] After 12 years, Syria and Egypt are resuming their diplomatic relations. Foreign Minister Moshe Arens said last night that Syria can no longer engage in military adventures against Israel and enjoy Soviet support because the spirit of glasnost has cooled relations between the two countries. Minister Arens was speaking last night during the annual meeting of Irgun veterans in Haifa. Our correspondent Nati Silberman was also there:

[Begin recording] [Silberman] Several weeks ago, Foreign Minister Moshe Arens said last night, someone told me that a renown rabbi believes that messianic times are at our doorstep these days. Why, I asked him? And he answered: This is because bloodless revolutions are occurring. Although those revolutions were later followed by the one in Romania, which seemed to refute the above argument, the foreign minister nevertheless emphasized that the 180-degree turn in Europe should cause great concern to our northern neighbor.

[Arens] Al-Asad in Syria today knows that he no longer enjoys the same degree of across-the-board support from the Soviet Union that he enjoyed before. Previously, when I was defense minister, we were very worried by the fact that Al-Asad was convinced that the Soviet Union would back him in every military move against us and give him complete support. Yet now I can say that he does not have that security.

[Silberman] What is true for Syria, said Minister Arens, is just as relevant in connection with the Warsaw Pact. This pact has simply collapsed under the aegis of glasnost.

[Arens] The Warsaw Pact in fact no longer exists, even though meetings are still held in that forum. But ministers representing Eastern European countries are no longer Communist Party members, and no one imagines that this military pact, which was established to counter the Western world's NATO, will actually be called to arms. It is nothing more than a show when they meet. But as a military pact, it no longer exists.

[Silberman] From our standpoint as well, this change in Eastern Europe is for the better. Whereas once all the communist parties identified unequivocally with the most extremist views in the Arab world, today in my meetings with representatives of East European countries, the Palestinian issue or the PLO do not feature as a topic for discussion. They all cherish feelings of friendship and appreciation—sometimes even admiration—toward Israel. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0500 GMT on 28 December adds that "Foreign Minister Moshe Arens said that the East European countries are currently waiting in line, as he put it, to renew diplomatic relations with Israel."

[Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 28 December, in a report on pages 1 and 12 by the Arab affairs correspondent and news agencies, cites "Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's aide Avi Pazner" as characterizing Egyptian-Syrian diplomatic detente as "part of Egypt's going back to the Arab world after it was ostracized for establishing relations with Israel." Pazner reportedly said: "We hope it will bring about a bigger realization in the Arab world that peace with Israel is possible and desirable," adding that "we would hope that Egypt would play a role in carrying that idea to other Arab countries."]

Netanyahu Welcomes Romanian 'Democratic Regime'

TA2512121589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 25 Dec 89

[Telephone interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu by Shalom Qital—live]

[Text] [Qital] We have Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu on the telephone. Good day, Mr Netanyahu.

[Netanyahu] Good day.

[Qital] We heard reports today that are reassuring but which are also cause for concern. The reports are about Israelis—students and the families of embassy personnel in Bucharest—who were smuggled into Bulgaria. It is reassuring on the one hand that they have reached Bulgaria, but the fate of the other Israelis is reason for concern. First of all, is the report correct?

[Netanyahu] Yes, the report about the students is correct. They arrived safely in Sofia. They were part of a U.S. convoy. I would like to use this opportunity to thank the U.S. Government, which helped to form the convoy, as well as the Bulgarian Government, which accepted them. Now about the situation of the Israelis and the Jewish community in Romania, the reports we have, at least up to 1 hour ago, confirm that there have been no casualties.

[Qital] All are safe, as far as you know?

[Netanyahu] Yes, as far as we know all are safe.

[Qital] First, how many people reached Bulgaria?

[Netanyahu] I do not have the exact number with me right now, but it is about 35 students, if I am not mistaken.

[Qital] How will they reach Israel?

[Netanyahu] The arrangements are much easier from Bulgaria, because there is no problem there. Our security people report that our emissaries are not endangered, and as far as we know there is also no danger at present to any Israelis in Romania.

[Qital] What about our communications with Romania?

[Netanyahu] Communications are through a situation room set up in the Foreign Ministry, which is being manned around the clock, and the Bucharest Embassy under Ambassador Tzvi Mazel. We are in telephone contact, which has been renewed, and we also have a cable and telex link. The connection is good, but you must understand that the embassy's ability to take action is limited because it only has three telephone lines; therefore, it is hard to seek out all the Israelis and Romanian Jews being sought.

[Qital] What about our relations—if we can refer to relations—with the new government in Romania, which is surely busy with other things. How would you define the ties between us?

[Netanyahu] We welcome the establishment of a democratic regime in Romania. We have already made contacts with several organs of the new government, which has begun to function. Ambassador Tzvi Mazel is in contact with the Romanian Foreign Ministry and the Health Ministry. As you know, we have offered medical aid.

[Qital] Yes, and when will it be able to leave?

[Netanyahu] We held a meeting 1 hour ago with all the involved bodies: the Foreign Ministry, the Health Ministry, the army, as well as representatives of the Romanian community here, and others. The delegation is being organized speedily. It includes six or seven doctors and 6 tons of medical equipment. The doctors speak Romanian and are ready for departure. The main problem holding up the delegation is the announcement that the airport has been closed. There is no practical way at present of reaching Romania. The minute the situation changes we will send the delegation immediately.

[Qital] Thank you, Binyamin Netanyahu.

South Africa's Archbishop Tutu Concludes Visit

Delivers Sermon in Bayt Sahur

TA2512074889 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 25 Dec 89 p 2

[Report by Joel Greenberg]

[Text] Bayt Sahur—South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu, in a Christmas Eve sermon here yesterday, cited the struggle of persecuted blacks in his country as a source of inspiration to Palestinians in the territories.

Tutu arrived to a tumultuous welcome by hundreds of townspeople who held up olive branches and shouted "ANC [African National Congress]-PLO" and "PLO-Israel No" outside the YMCA building near Shepherd's Field.

A crowd of girls and women held up signs reading: "No to racism and occupation; yes to democracy and independence."

Surrounded by a tight ring of Israeli security men who linked arms with Arab organizers, Tutu, accompanied by the Anglican Bishop of Jerusalem, Samir Kafiti, made his way to Shepherd's Field through a crush of cameramen and townspeople.

Speaking at a carol service also attended by scores of foreign pilgrims, Tutu described the condition of blacks in South Africa, implicitly comparing them to Palestinians in the territories. South African blacks are deprived of political rights, employed in low-paid menial tasks, imprisoned, exiled, teargassed, shot and killed, he said.

"God sides with those whom the world despises, brutalizes and oppresses," he said. "Our people know in their hearts that victory is assured, that they will be free... They know that their struggle is not in vain...

"If it can happen in South Africa, with its apartheid policy, it must be able to happen anywhere. It will happen here," Tutu asserted to wild applause.

"We support the struggle of the Palestinian people for nationhood. But we say also, dear brothers and sisters, the Jews have a right to their independent state as well. We say peace is going to come in this land, because it is God's will and nobody will stop it."

Meets Hammer, Leaves for U.S.

TA2712094789 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 27 Dec 89 p 3

[Text] Religious Affairs Minister Zvulun Hammer yesterday granted an audience in his Jerusalem office to Archbishop Desmond Tutu, who is currently visiting Israel. This was Tutu's only meeting with an Israeli official, held at his request, and it lasted about an hour.

Tutu and Hammer exchanged views concerning the need for a dialogue between the various sides in the region in a bid for peace. Archbishop Tutu reiterated his positions about Israel's right to live in an independent, secure, and free manner and stressed the rights of the Palestinian people to live under similar conditions. He described his visit as a religious pilgrimage. Tutu asked his escorts, some of them Israeli citizens, including Bishop Samir Qaf'iti, to voice their views on these issues and stressed the importance of a meeting between the religious affairs minister and senior representatives of the Arab people from among the clergymen.

Minister Hammer told Archbishop Tutu that the analogy he drew between Israel's policy and actions and those of South Africa, as reported by the media, was fundamentally incorrect and stemmed from a basic misunderstanding of the conflict in our region.

Hammer said, among other things: "The archbishop, who is known for his war against discrimination in his country, should realize the profundity of our problem here. We were not the ones who created the conflict in this region. It was the Arabs who saw us as an alien element here."

[Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 27 December in a report by Joel Greenberg on pages 1 and 10 notes that "Tutu left Israel yesterday en route to New York, where is is slated to participate in the inauguration of the city's first black mayor, David Dinkins."]

Weizman Plans Trip to USSR for 'Next Week'

TA2812112289 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 28 Dec 89 p 2

[Report by political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Text] Science and Technology Minister 'Ezer Weizman will leave for Moscow next week. He is scheduled to meet USSR Science Ministry [as published] officials and high-ranking politicians.

The Cabinet will be asked to approve Weizman's trip, which was made possible at this date after Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and finance minister, postponed his visit to the USSR to a later date.

Weizman will be the guest of the USSR Academy of Sciences, and it is expected that during his visit there he will sign initial agreements of cooperation in the areas of science and technology.

Arye Shumer, Science and Technology Ministry director general, is currently in Moscow. He will provide full details of the trip upon his return.

Weizman will be the first Inner Cabinet minister to visit the USSR.

Several weeks ago Agriculture Minister Avraham Katz-'Oz visited the USSR. He, however, is not a member of the group of senior Cabinet ministers—the Inner Cabinet.

[Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 28 December carries a similar report by Ilan Bakhar on pages A1 and 2, adding: "Senior Foreign Ministry officials yesterday expressed reservations regarding Weizman's trip to the USSR, saying that the Israeli policy maintains that ministers should visit Moscow only upon the invitation of the official USSR regime. Therefore, there is doubt whether Foreign Minister Moshe Arens will contradict his own ministry's policy, and he might object to Weizman's trip."]

Maritime Route Opens Between Haifa, Odessa

TA2712092789 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 27 Dec 89 p 5

["Exclusive" report from the Soviet Union by Gid'on Alon]

[Excerpts] Moscow—A maritime route has recently opened between Odessa in the Soviet Union and Israel. A Soviet maritime company has begun transporting the belongings of Jewish immigrants from nearby areas, including Uzbekistan, directly to Haifa port from Odessa. [passage omitted]

Immigration officials point out that the opening of the Odessa-Haifa maritime route is of particular importance in the wake of the dramatic events in Romania which, at least at this point, do not allow flights of Soviet immigrants via Bucharest. The officials noted that all immigrants are being flown to Israel via Budapest in Hungary or Larnaca in Cyprus. [passage omitted]

Rabin Reacts to Egyptian-Syrian Rapprochement

TA2612153389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 26 Dec 89

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin believes the rapprochement between Egypt and Syria could become a potential threat, or it could neutralize Syria's damaging approach to the peace process. Our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen reports that Minister Rabin told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that, while there has been no change in Syria's position, there is no doubt that Damascus knows that Brezhnev no longer rules and that there is a new Gorbachev policy which ascertains that there must be a political solution of the conflict.

On a different issue, Minister Rabin said that the South Lebanese Army [SLA] is the only force in Lebanon in which Druze, Shiites, and Christians serve together. In order to reduce the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] permanent presence in the security zone, the SLA is taking over more responsibility.

Referring to Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, the defense minister said that many weapons have been uncovered and the searches to find lethal weapons will be increased.

Rabin said that preventing the defense budget's growth in the coming budgetary year means there will be a lack of funds to cover direct expenditures in dealing with the intifadah and will also have a serious affect on the build-up of the forces and other activities of the defense establishment.

Discusses Iran, Defense Budget

TA2612200989 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 26 Dec 89

[Report on interview with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Knesset correspondent Ya'aqov Ahime'ir after the 26 December session of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee; place not given—recorded]

[Text] At the beginning of the session, Knesset Member Ben-Elisar, chairman of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, protested the fact that an important subcommittee had not been briefed on two issues: the journey of Yona Baumel [father of a POW] to Tunisia, and the forming of ties with Iran.

[Begin Rabin recording] All reports alleging that Israel is maintaining direct contacts with Iran contain no truth. We would like to establish contact with those elements who can bring about an acceleration in the return home of our MIA's and POW's held in Lebanon. To achieve that goal, contacts have to be created and an infrastructure built, but this has to be done without being coupled to the supply of weapons. The latter is taboo for us. Everything that can be done in the above sphere will be done. [end recording]

As for the superpowers, Rabin opined that their ability to impose solutions on regional conflicts has decreased, while the maneuverability of the warring nations has grown.

On the defense budget: The IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] multiyear plan is not feasible under the present budget circumstances.

[Begin Rabin recording] We probably will be forced to decrease further the combat order of battle and research and development activities. We will be obliged the decrease the scope of orders from the defense industries, which will create layoffs in numbers that I am unable define at present, but will, nevertheless, harm security. [end recording]

Inner Cabinet Responds to Egyptian-Syrian Ties

TA2812110389 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 28 Dec 89 p 1

[Report by political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Text] Following the reestablishment of ties between Syria and Egypt, sources in Israel yesterday said they believe the USSR is working to calm Syria, thus reducing the danger of Syria waging war with Israel. However, the sources refrained from viewing the Syrian decision to resume ties with Egypt, which were severed after the signing of the Camp David accords, as a significant shift in Syrian policy toward Israel.

In yesterday's Inner Cabinet discussion, Minister 'Ezer Weizman said that President al-Sadat had predicted that Egypt would regain its central position in the Arab world despite its peace agreement with Israel.

Weizman reminded his listeners that since the peace accords were signed he has maintained that the Arab world would return to Egypt, and not vice versa. Weizman called on the Israeli Cabinet to forsake the old-fashioned belief that "the whole world is against us." He believes that Syria would not wage war against Israel on its own, but on the other hand, "Egypt is not in our pocket." Israel must therefore talk to the PLO and solve the Palestinian problem.

Weizman suggested that Israel assist President Mubarak in his efforts to expand the circle of peace in the Middle East. Minister Ari'el Sharon remarked: "We have done more than enough for Mubarak. What more should we do for him?" Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and finance minister, suggested that attention be given to the fact that it was Syria which went back on its demand that Egypt withdraw from the Camp David accords. Peres rejected the claim recently made in view of events in the Eastern bloc, maintaining that no changes have occurred in the Arab world. Peres noted that the Arabs would now make an effort to attain economic cooperation after their failure to bring about either military or political coordination. Minister Moshe Shahal said that the resumption of ties between Egypt and Syria was made on the basis of the Egyptian commitment to the Camp David agreements and diplomatic relations with Israel. Therefore, Shahal said, Egypt views the reestablishment of ties as a Syrian admission of the correctness of Egyptian policy. He suggested that should Egypt be seen as an element which could assist in making political arrangements with other Arab countries.

Defense Minister Rabin expressed his concern about the Syrian military reinforcement and the increasing pace of its Army's drills.

First Egyptian Trade Delegation Arrives 24 Dec

TA2512081189 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 25 Dec 89 p 5

[Report by Judy Maltz]

[Text] The first Egyptian trade delegation to visit Israel arrived here yesterday at the invitation of the Manufacturers Association.

Headed by Dr. 'Isam Ghayith, chairman of the Egyptian National Feed Co., the nine-man delegation will meet with Israeli industrialists to discuss possible joint projects and visit a number of factories.

The visit follows a trip by a group of Israeli industrialists to Egypt in October. During the visit, a bi-national committee was formed to promote trade ties between the two countries.

Israeli exports to Egypt totalled $6.2 million last year while imports from Egypt amounted to $3.2 million.

Envoy Discusses Expected Mubarak-Al-Asad Summit

JN2512180489 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1530 GMT 25 Dec 89

[Interview with Egyptian Ambassador to Israel Muhammad Basyuni by Bassam Jabir within the "With the Events" program; date, place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Jabir] Egyptian Ambassador to Israel Muhammad Basyuni, to what extent will the Arab countries, including Egypt, be influenced by the current democratic developments in Eastern Europe?

[Basyuni] In fact, Egypt preceded the East European countries in this issue a long time ago. For example, the working paper of October 1973 presented by late President al-Sadat on openness, frankness, renunciation of the idea of the one party, and Middle East peace is considered an Egyptian perestroyka; furthermore, there is the amendment of the Constitution in 1980, the approval of the formation of parties, and the establishment of opposition parties and newspapers.

[Jabir] Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam's visit to Egypt last Saturday is one of recent important events. There is information that President Mubarak and President al-Asad will meet very soon. Do you believe that this meeting will take place soon, and what will this meeting produce?

[Basyuni] The meeting will repair the various aspects of relations between the two countries, God willing, in order to meet the aspirations and interests of the Egyptian and Syrian citizens on the basis of the deep-rooted brotherly ties between the two countries. The ramifications of these relations also will produce positive results in the future.

[Jabir] Your Excellency the Ambassador, when do you expect the meeting will take place between the two presidents, and will the meeting take place within days, weeks, or months?

[Basyuni] In fact, the summit meeting will be preceded by a technical meeting. The two presidents will fix a date, God willing. I believe it will take place as soon as possible.

[Jabir] How do you view the impact of the Egyptian-Syrian rapprochement on the region? Is the Syrian president adopting President Mubarak's peace strategy, and does Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad actually want peace?

[Basyuni] The rapprochement between Egypt and Syria will reflect positively on the Arab nation and the whole region. His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad wants to achieve peace. But he wonders what kind of peace Israel wants. Peace should be permanent, just, and comprehensive.

Cabinet Extends Chief of Staff's Term by 1 Year

TA2412154789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 24 Dec 89

[Text] The Cabinet decided today to extend the chief of staff's term by another year. This was learned by our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe. In April, Lieutenant General Dan Shomron will have served as chief of staff for 3 years. The defense minister today proposed that his term be extended, and the motion was approved.

Cabinet Approves 1990-91 State Budget Proposal

TA2612080189 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 26 Dec 89 p 1

[Report by economic affairs correspondent Avi Temkin]

[Text] The cabinet last night approved the Treasury's NIS [new Israeli shekel] 54.4 billion state budget proposal for 1990-91.

It includes the introduction of a longer school day, payment of tuition fees by families with monthly incomes above NIS [new Israeli shekels] 3,500, and a cut in National Insurance Institute allowances.

Finance Minister Peres is expected to bring the proposed budget before the Knesset early next month.

The only item from the Treasury's proposal that did not win cabinet approval was the NIS 370 million cut in government mortgages, which would be made up by increased offerings from the mortgage banks.

Peres agreed to discuss the government mortgage cuts once again with his opponent on this issue, Housing Minister David Levi, and to reach a decision by Sunday.

The Treasury has already indicated its intention to delay an increase in Value Added Tax from 15 to 16 per cent, and increased taxes on fuel and tobacco—possibly until January or February. Peres, however, refused to tell reporters when the tax hikes would come.

The 14-hour debate was relatively calm, although clashes erupted between Prime Minister Shamir and Economics Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i who protested loudly and repeatedly over the way Shamir ran the meeting, saying he needed more time to explain his point of view.

Moda'i voted against the budget, together with Levi and Industry and Trade Minister Ari'el Sharon.

The cabinet first voted in favour of the NIS 225 million addition to the defence budget, approved by Peres on Friday, and on the three month delay in implementation of income tax reform.

During last night's debate Peres acceded to Police Minister Hayim Bar-Lev's request for 250 additional positions in the force. Defence Minister Rabin agreed to allocate soldiers to fill these positions; but this will require formal legislation.

Jaffee Center Issues Report on Military Balance

TA2112143389 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 21 Dec 89 p 12

[Report by Shmu'el Tal]

[Text] The Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies at Tel Aviv University yesterday published its annual report on military balance, including political and strategic developments in the Middle East.

Iraq—Within 5 to 10 years Iraq will develop a nuclear bomb. There has been no change in the size of its Army's manpower. The number of its divisions rose from 45 to 55; the number of tanks rose from 5,000 to 6,000. The Army has developed an arsenal of surface-to-surface missiles. Upgraded Sukhoi-24 and MiG-29 fighter planes have been incorporated into its Air Force, and a significant increase has been noted in the number of its helicopters.

Syria—Despite the reported cuts in its defense budget, Syria is hoping to complete preparations for the option of an independent military attack on the Golan Heights in the 1990's. The number of its surface-to-surface missile launchers went up from 54 to 60. All of its other launchers are of the SS-21 type. Syria has also been supplied with Sukhoi-24 strategic bombers and upgraded MiG-29's.

Jordan—It has turned its stationary Hawk missiles into mobile ones, thereby breaking a promise to the United States. Manpower in the Jordanian Armed Forces has increased by more than 27,000 soldiers. The number of its tanks rose by 90, and a rise has been noted in the number of its Mirage-2,000's and helicopters.

Territories—No correlation has been found between the number of houses demolished and the number of violent incidents. The deterrent effect of house demolitions and deportations on the scope of the intifadah should be questioned. The intifadah is tending toward inertia.

Egypt—The number of its motorized divisions rose from six to seven, and the number of its surface-to-surface missile launchers rose from 20 to 24. Egypt has ordered 80 upgraded planes, and phased out obsolete submarines and missile boats.

Iran—It has ordered new weapons to replace those lost in the Gulf War, and increased the number of its divisions.

Israel—The number of troops in the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] rose by some 60,000 reservists. Five new and independent infantry brigades were formed, resulting in 25 such brigades. After adding 170 tanks, their number now stands at 1,410.

The number of fighter planes went down from 682 to 635, while the number of missile boats decreased from 26 to 24.

Kuwait—Forty new F-18 fighter planes have been ordered.

Saudi Arabia—After receiving additional Tornado aircraft, the supply of such planes and helicopters is continuing.

Aharon Yariv, director of the Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies, said that despite the shocks and far-reaching changes made by the superpowers in terms of nonconventional weapons disarmament, and although Europe is undergoing a process of cutting back on conventional weapons, the Middle East has not yet witnessed revolutionary changes, and the current state of affairs is quite sad.

"Although we may congratulate ourselves for providing a positive reply to the Baker plan and for issuing a peace initiative, the political process has not yet been launched. After gaining fantastic success in its 1st year, the intifadah is stagnant, and the fighting spirit that was typical of the Palestinians in the territories has waned. The Palestinian leadership today is resorting to difficult and cruel means to revive the intifadah, which has not ended. The IDF has learned to cope with the intifadah, but proved that it will not be able to cope with this burden if it lasts for a number of years. Our intelligence services have managed to find ways of confronting the strike committees, and have scored successes."

"Even if a tripartite foreign ministers meeting is held, we are still far from being certain that a peace process has been launched, and there are still numerous obstacles along the way. The Palestinians have proven that those determining their affairs reside not in the Middle East, but in Tunis.

"Israel's interests in Lebanon were maintained last year, and at a low cost. We had very few casualties, and our northern settlements were not affected. Syria underwent a massive military effort and increased its defense expenditures, which points out its assault potential. Syria's aim is to obtain 80 MiG-29's, and it has already ordered 48 Sukhoi-24's. This indicates an increased Syrian attack capability, while the number of Israel Air Force planes has been sliced and the Navy has two vessels less.

"The Soviets have called on Syria to abandon its effort to attain strategic parity with Israel, and urged it to devote more attention to defense instead.

"Iraq today has long-range surface-to-surface missiles and is able to hurt us. They have also developed chemical weapons. We can assert that the Middle East has entered the missile era."

Islamic Jihad Threatens To Attack Peace Rally

TA2812111789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 28 Dec 89

[Text] The Islamic Jihad has threatened to carry out an attack during the Peace Now rally in Jerusalem planned for this weekend because of its objection to joint Jewish-Palestinian demonstrations. The Sons of the Village organization also has boycotted the event.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the threats were issued in Switzerland and Italy and were relayed to Israel via Interpol. The Italian representatives who arrived here to participate in the rally are aware of the threats, and the security forces are making the necessary preparations.

'Sources' Deny Interference for Hizballah

TA2712184189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Text] Leaders of the Amal organization claim that Israel is aiding Hizballah in the current battle between the Shiite factions in southern Lebanon. Amal leader Nabih Birri claims that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is permitting Hizballah to move people and weapons through the security zone to the fighting area east of Sidon. He claims that Israel's action is part of its effort to persuade Iran to release the Israeli prisoners held by the Hizballah. Security sources in Israel have said that the claims are baseless. They also stress that Israel is closely following the battles between the Shiite factions in southern Lebanon, but is determined not to intervene.

Jordan Stepping Up Contacts With Hamas on Talks

JN2312114889 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 21 Dec 89

[Text] Our correspondent has learned from arrivals from Jordan that the Jordanian authorities will try to influence the future of the peace process and the dialogue between the Israelis and the Palestinians. The Jordanians will attempt to do so by exercising the influence they have in this respect on the Muslim elements in the West Bank, particularly Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] members. The sources add that the Jordanian authorities recently intensified their contacts with Hamas leaders in the West Bank to define stands with respect to the possibility of the participation by Hamas members in the Palestinian delegation.

Knesset Extends 'Emergency Regulations' 2 Years

TA2712124189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Text] The Knesset has decided to extend the validity of the emergency regulations in the territories by 2 years. This was reported by our correspondent Shlomo Raz. During the debate on the second and third hearings, Knesset Members Rubinstein, Virshubsky, and Marom expressed their reservations regarding the length of the proposed extension period and suggested limiting it to between 6 months and 1 year.

Legal Action Against Palestinian Leaders Urged

TA2512081389 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 25 Dec 89 p 2

[Report by David Makovsky]

[Excerpt] Industry and Trade Minister Ari'el Sharon (Likud) yesterday called for Israel to use all legal means to "act against" three Palestinian leaders in East Juruslaem and the West Bank.

Repeating a refrain that has become the credo of Gush Emunim, Sharon reportedly suggested to the cabinet that Israel could reduce the level of intifada violence if it arrested or deported East Jerusalem leaders Sari Nusaybah and Faysal al-Husayni, along with Jamil al-Tarifi of Ramallah. Al-Tarifi met with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir earlier this year.

According to sources, Sharon said, "A democracy (the U.S.) has decided to defend itself because it perceives a threat to its citizens. It is time for Israel to do the same against those who endanger Jewish life."

He said Israel must act against the heads of Palestinian terrorism. He urged steps to be taken against the three, without explicitly mentioning what steps he would urge. [passage omitted]

Ramallah Man Killed by IDF Soldiers 26 Dec

TA2612163489 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 26 Dec 89

[Report by correspondent in the territories 'Ido Shargil]

[Excerpt] An IDF [Israel Defense Forces] unit, which operated this morning in the Ramallah District village of al-Janiyah, was attacked by stones hurled by local residents. Official army sources have said that when the unit commander felt that the soldiers' lives were in jeopardy, an attempt to detain one of the rioters was made. Acting in accordance with suspect detention regulations, the soldiers fired, wounding 30-year-old Fayiz Dar Yusuf Shahda from Ramallah. He was brought to a Ramallah hospital in critical condition, where he died of his wounds. [passage omitted]

Curfew in Force in Hebron; Strike Observed

TA2712190289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Report by Mark Weiss]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] A curfew remains in force on the casbah market area of Hebron, and also on the village of al-Janiyah in the Ramallah area.

A general strike was observed today throughout the territories. The action was called for by Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, to mourn the death of Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hazzam, originally from a village near Janin, who was killed in Pakistan last month working with Afghan guerrillas.

The army spokesman reported a number of clashes in the Gaza Strip today, but gave no casualty figures.

The Gaza military court today sentenced 19-year-old Taysir Abu-'Adi and 22-year-old Hatam Marj 'Ayuda to prison terms of 8 and ½ and 8 years respectively. The men, both from Khan Yunus, were convicted of petrol bomb attacks and of throwing stones and a concrete block at the car of Defense Minister Rabin during a visit he made to Khan Yunus. They also threw a concrete block at an army jeep, injuring a soldier.

Twenty-seven-year-old Ahmad Nasiri, also from Khan Yunus, was sentenced to a 12-year jail term today by the Gaza military court. This was in addition to the life sentence imposed in 1984 for killing five people. Today's term was for the attempted murder of three fellow prisoners he suspected of cooperating with the authorities, and for teaching other prisoners terror techniques.

Foreign Ministry Hails Syrian-Egyptian Ties

JN2712200289 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Text] A Foreign Ministry spokesman in Amman expressed Jordan's extreme satisfaction over the decision by the Governments of the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Syrian Arab Republic to resume diplomatic ties.

The spokesman added: Jordan, which was the first country to resume diplomatic ties with fraternal Egypt, views this step as a significantly positive development toward completing Arab solidarity and unifying our nation's capabilities in this nation's interests, with the goal of defending those interests. Jordan views this step as a natural outcome of the development of Egypt's pan-Arab stands under President Husni Mubarak. The spokesman stated Jordan appreciates the importance of this step and its constructive effect on safeguarding pan-Arab security, especially at this phase, during which there have been extremely important developments on the international scene.

Paper Welcomes Relations

JN2812101489 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 28 Dec 89 p 1

[Editorial: "Solidarity: Arabs' Only Option"]

[Text] Effective yesterday, Cairo and Damascus resumed full diplomatic ties following the visit by Egyptian Prime Minister 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid [name as published] to the Syrian capital.

It is natural for the restoration of ties between the two fraternal countries to be welcomed on the Arab level as an important step to strengthen Arab solidarity at a time when Arabs, more than ever before, need to close their ranks and adhere to organized pan-Arab action.

It also was not surprising when Israel assessed rapprochement between Cairo and Damascus as a trend that carries threats. This is because Israel cannot stand to see a stable Arab reality based on relations of respect, trust, and cooperation among Arabs. Israel therefore believes any improvement in Arab relations is worrisome.

In light of their experiences and the challenges facing them, it is important for Arabs to remember their solidarity is their only option. There is is no substitute for solidarity, especially since they live in a world dominated by major blocs that form the protecting economic and political shield for the constituent entities. The speedy steps made by the EC toward more cohesion among its members undoubtedly is the best proof of this.

It also is no secret that what most characterizes Arab solidarity is that it transcends axes and opens horizons for broad pan-Arab action. The essence of this was confirmed by the Egyptian-Syrian rapprochement and by Egypt's membership in the Arab Cooperation Council. Jordan always has stressed the importance of Arab solidarity. It exerted, and still exerts, intensive efforts to build and strengthen that solidarity—the most prominent of these efforts was the summit of reconciliation and accord, hosted a few years ago by Amman.

Cairo and Damascus are two pillars of Arab solidarity—just like Amman, Baghdad, Sanaa, the rest of the Arab capitals, and the PLO. We therefore welcome anything that will help restore things to normal between Cairo and Damascus, Baghdad and Damascus, and between the PLO and Damascus. We also welcome anything that will help dispel all dark clouds in the Arab atmospheres, so Arabs can face the challenges united and progress confidently toward a better life.

Iraq's Taha Yasin Ramadan Arrives in Amman

JN2712121889 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1015 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Excerpts] Amman, 27 Dec (INA)—First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan arrived here today, heading a delegation that will attend meetings of the Iraqi-Jordanian higher joint committee, which also will start here today. [passage omitted]

On his current visit to Jordan, Taha Yasin Ramadan said: The visit is within the framework of the annual meetings of the Iraqi-Jordanian joint committee. Despite the fact it is a committee for technical and economic cooperation, the talks will deal with economic and political cooperation on the bilateral, quadripartite, and Arab levels.

Asked whether there was anything new regarding Iraqi-Iranian negotiations, the first deputy prime minister said: Iran so far has not shown a sincere desire for peace and has not given a clear reply to the Iraqi proposals that call for proceeding on the road to peace, namely direct negotiations and the formation of specialized committees to discuss in detail and in a practical manner the pending problems between Iraq and Iran. [passage omitted]

Meets With Prime Minister

JN2712172289 Baghdad INA in English 1540 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Text] Amman, Dec 27, INA—Mr Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy premier, met here today Jordanian Premier Mudar Badran. The two officials reviewed during the meeting agenda of the ministerial committee opening here later today and they stressed the importance of realizing new shift compatible with new circumstances the two countries were witnessing.

Mr Ramadan expressed satisfaction over the development of bilateral relations which received attention of President Saddam Husayn and King Husayn.

Jordanian-Iraqi Committee Begins Meetings 27 Dec

JN2812072689 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Text] Prime Minister Mudar Badran today met at his office with Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and first deputy prime minister in the fraternal Republic of Iraq. They exchanged viewpoints on and reviewed the latest developments in the Arab and international arenas. They also discussed issues concerning the two fraternal countries.

Meetings of the higher Jordanian-Iraqi joint committee followed, co-chaired by Ramadan and Badran. The heads of the two sides exchanged speeches of welcome and asserted this committee's continued work aims to achieve the aspirations formulated by the two Arab leaders, His Majesty King Husayn and His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, to achieve further progress and glory for the peoples of the two fraternal countries and for the entire Arab nation.

The committee then conducted its first working session to discuss subjects on its agenda which relate to continuing work on the scope of cooperation existing between the two fraternal countries and expanding it in the fields of trade, agriculture, environmental protection, energy, electricity linkage, transportation and communications, health, and construction.

The session was attended on the Jordanian side by the deputy prime minister and interior minister; the deputy prime minister and foreign minister; ministers of health, transportation and communications, finance, industry and trade, energy and mineral resources; the governor of the Central Bank of Jordan; and the secretary general of the Ministry of Industry and Trade.

On the Iraqi side, the session was attended by the RCC member and minister of transport and communications [as heard], the minister of trade, the vice chairman of the joint committee, the Iraqi ambassador in Amman, the heads of the Iraqi Foreign Ministry's Arab and Protocol Departments, and a number of experts and aides.

The higher Jordanian-Iraqi committee tomorrow will resume its meetings.

Al-Qasim's Message on Arab-Israeli Conflict

JN2712210889 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Text] Amman—Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has stated an international peace conference under UN auspices is the proper way to attain peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict and of all aspects of the Palestine question, based on UN Security Council Resolution Nos 242 and 338 and the realization of the Palestinian people's national rights.

In a message addressed to the UN secretary general and published today by the UN General Secretariat, Al-Qasim said: It is natural for all parties to the conflict, including the PLO—the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people—as well as the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, to attend such a conference. He added Jordan would attend this conference as a party directly concerned with the Arab-Israeli conflict. He went on to say Jordan neither will act on behalf of the PLO or serve as a substitute for the PLO in efforts to resolve the Palestine question.

The deputy prime minister indicated settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict and establishing lasting peace in the region requires Israeli withdrawal from all Arab territories it occupied in 1967, including Jerusalem; permitting the Palestinians to exercise their legitimate national rights, including self-determination and establishing their independent state on Palestinian national soil; the provision of guarantees by the UN Security Council ensuring the right of all of the region's states to live within secure and recognized borders; comprehensively settling the Palestinian refugees issue based on UN General Assembly Resolution No 194, which was issued on 11 December 1948; and the dismantling of settlements established by Israel in the occupied territories.

Al-Qasim reiterated Jordan's complete willingness to cooperate with the UN secretary general to advance the peace process in the region. He also stressed the importance Jordan attaches to the UN secretary general's continued efforts in this regard, considering the grave dangers entailed in the current regional situation. He emphasized the need for international endeavors focusing on efforts to tackle the Israeli stance, which has remained the only obstacle in the way of achieving a comprehensive political settlement.

Ba'th Party Activists Considering Reforms

JN2512073889 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 25 Dec 89 p 1

[Text] SAWT AL-SHA'B has learned contacts are underway among cadres and leaders of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party in Jordan to study the party's experiment over the past period. It also has been learned these cadres and leaders are reconsidering the party's structure to carry out organizational reforms within the whole structure of the party and to rename it according to the atmosphere of democratic openness in Jordan and action within the framework of constitutional legitimacy.

Communist Party Leader Interviewed on Election

JN2112111289 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 21 Dec 89 p 2

[Interview with Dr Ya'qub Zayyadin, secretary general of the Jordanian Communist Party, by Muhammad al-Malkawi; date, place not given]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Al-Malkawi] Could you tell us the reasons for your failure in the elections and why you did not obtain enough seats in the House of Representatives as anticipated?

[Zayyadin] I do not think the Communist Party failed in the elections, because the party candidates obtained a good number of votes, which amounted to about 10,000 votes in al-Karak, 8,000 in al-Salt, 8,000 in Irbid, and 6,000 in Amman. These votes indicate quite a good number of citizens have responded to the platform presented by the Party candidates. There also is clear indication the Party scored a victory through its contacts with citizens. We nevertheless noticed that some other currents fought against the Party candidates aiming to topple them. I myself faced such things, and these currents brought me down after giving votes to my competitor.

[Al-Malkawi] Was the Communist Party harassed during the electoral campaign by the security, administrative, or government quarters, something which might have caused the failure of some of its candidates?

[Zayyadin] We were not harassed by any security or non-security quarter. We hope this stage will continue and hope that we will enjoy a continuous full freedom.

[Al-Malkawi] It is reported that there is some sort of coordination and understanding between the Communist Party and the Islamic trend. How true is this? Is there an intention to establish such a coordination now or in the future?

[Zayyadin] We have no connection with the Islamic trend. We have not established any relationship with the Muslim Brotherhood in the past or the present. However, we cooperated with the Islamic current (not the Muslim Brotherhood) during the elections of the Engineers Association 2 years ago and we helped it succeed in the elections because it agreed to cooperate with us. Within this context, we are ready to honorably hold out our hands to the Islamic current, especially since there are many points of agreement between us on the need to serve and defend the homeland, and this is our basic pillar. There is unemployment, the economic crisis, hike in prices, and foreign indebtedness. We are also ready to cooperate with all national currents and work together in the same direction, provided that they agree to cooperate with us and stretch a sincere and faithful hand to us. There was no coordination at all with the Muslim Brotherhood. On the contrary, the Brothers campaigned against the Communist Party candidates in all areas and constituences for their own reasons. This shows that they fought against the Party at a time when they stood by the side of other currents against which they had always stood. We do not know the reason.

[Al-Malkawi] Were you fought by the other non-Islamic currents?

[Zayyadin] Yes, we were fought by the nationalist currents when they failed to vote for our candidates. The religious and nationalist currents joined ranks whether intentionally or unintentionally to fight us. The great number of votes our competitors obtained indicated this. My rival was given 4[illegible] more votes at a time when the other competitors obtained only about 2,000 votes each. Thus, why and how did the others obtain 6,000 votes? This was quite clear when votes were sorted out. It appeared that the currents which abided by their candidates have selected our opponent candidate.

[Al-Malkawi] How do you view the House of Representatives through its current structure and the forces present in it?

[Zayyadin] Our strategy is to build national fronts from all forces in order to work for one objective. We are currently seeking the formation of a national bloc to achieve specific aims represented in canceling the martial law, releasing public freedoms, licensing the establishment of newspapers, and giving the freedom to form parties. Our deputy in the House will do his best to achieve this. We extend a hand to all currents and forces in the House for the sake of cooperating with them for this purpose. This is an unwavering policy and a strategy to which we abide. We might fail or succeed, but will do our best.

[Al-Malkawi] There is an intention, on both official and popular levels, to establish public parties in Jordan. The candidates have concentrated on this issue during their elections campaigns and in their programs. Does your party have the intention of being one of those parties? How will it be structured? And, will there be any changes in its political and organizational program?

[Zayyadin] As for changing the communist party's program, things will be discussed as they happen, especially since there are proposals to change the party's name. I believe this is not a major issue. For example, the communist party is called the Socialist Vanguard Party in Algeria, the Party of Progress and Socialism in Morocco, and the Polish United Workers' Party in Poland. This is not a major issue for us. The main thing is that the substance will be a political one. Our policies are purely patriotic, and defense of the people will change according to the country's needs and circumstances.

[Al-Malkawi] Is there any contradiction between the Jordanian Communist Party's program and the constitution?

[Zayyadin] I do not believe there are differences between the Party's program and the constitution.

[Al-Malkawi] If you were asked to change the Communist Party's name, which formula would you choose?

[Zayyadin] I cannot think now of a name for the party if we were asked to change its name. However, I believe that our party is a historical party and we kept its name under the most difficult circumstances, so why should we change it now. Shall we change it in order to conform to what is going on in the world? Anyway, when we are asked to do so, we will study the issue and this will not be an obstacle.

[Al-Malkawi] In your opinion, what are the best ways to activate the Jordanian constitution?

[Zayyadin] The best way to activate the constitution is to apply it in letter and spirit. The constitution approves party freedom and stipulates that there must be a law to govern this. But, laws come to contradict the constitution and bans parties. There is a clause in the constitution on the freedom of press, but where is that freedom? The laws come to obliterate the constitution in letter and spirit. On that basis, if the citizens' rights are dealt with in the constituEB5CNconstitution. I believe that if the constitution was applied, man y of the homeland's and citizens' needs will be answered. This does not mean that the constitution must not be amended to the better if the need arises. Therefore, the constitution can be reviewed by a constituent assembly which will put new clauses. The big powers amend the constitution or put a new constitution, so why can't we do that?

[Al-Malkawi] It is said that the parties in Jordan are mere puppets of external parties that execute the desires and instructions of these parties. What is your comment on this?

[Zayyadin] Allow me to talk about my party. I can say that it is fully independent and we have no secret contacts. Our contacts and relationships are open. We have ties will all communist parties in the world, including the CPSU. Throughout my experience as a secretary general of the Party and an active member for 45 years, I can say that we never received instructions or directives from any party. All communist parties in the world, even the Moscow party, believed that we should talk about our problems and crises and deal with them alone because we are the best informed about them, and we actually do so. In this regard, and in addition to our open ties and the nonexistence of foreign instructions to dominate us, I can say that our financial resources are purely local which we receive as donations from members. To prove this, we were unable to place more than one advertisement with a picture in each local newspaper, at the time when many people spent thousands of dinars on advertisements in the newspapers. Additionally, the expenses of the elections campaigns are still due as personal debts on us to publishing houses. We collected money from our friends and supporters to spend on ourselves during that campaign. Our resources are few, and the different parties and quarters know that. [passage omitted]

Fighting Between Amal, Hizballah Continues

Besharati Announces Cease-Fire

LD2712175789 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Text] Mr Besharati, our country's first deputy foreign minister, announced today in Beirut that the Amal Movement and the Revolutionary Movement of the Lebanese Hizballah have agreed to establish a cease-fire.

In an interview with the Central News Unit in Beirut, he said: The Islamic Republic of Iran is trying its best to end the clashes with an understanding that fratricide among Muslims is dangerous and leads to the diversion of the anti-Zionist line of struggle in the region.

The first deputy foreign minister explained that fortunately the parties concerned have understood our positions and have announed their cooperation.

Reports talk of continued sporadic clashes between the two sides today.

Truce Fails To End Fighting

NC2812070189 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0530 GMT 28 Dec 89

[Text] The cease-fire announced by Iranian envoy Mohammad 'Ali Besharati and slated to go into effect at 2200 last night has not succeeded in halting the battles and putting an end to the fighting.

Security reports say that battles continued intermittently on the combat lines in Iqlim al-Tuffah yesterday. Amal and Hizballah have accused each other of being the first to violate the cease-fire. The Amal Movement accused Hizballah of launching an attack on Jarju' and indicated that the movement's gunmen have (?repulsed the attack).

A security source in Hizballah accused the Amal Movement of violating the cease-fire and of having continued to shell villages in Iqlim al-Tuffah. The source also accused Amal of carrying out an infiltration operation on the Kafr Milki line shortly before midnight last night. The source emphasized that Hizballah is prepared to abide by the cease-fire. The source again called for a dialogue.

Amal Accused of Breaking Truce

NC2812074189 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 28 Dec 89

[Text] The Amal Movement has violated the cease-fire agreement reached last night. The Amal Movement opened fire at Kafr Milki and bombarded Kafr Fila, 'Ayn Bu Siwar, and the Islamic resistance positions. Hizballah positions observed the ceaes-fire but defended themselves against desperate attacks by the Amal Movement that sought to make gains, flouting all efforts being made to stop the bloodshed and return calm to the region.

Besharati, Iran's first deputy foreign minister, held a news conference in the Iranian Embassy in Beirut at 1700 yesterday. It was attended by Iranian ambassador in Damascus Mohammad Hasan Akhtari, Iranian Charge d'Affairs Brother Abu-Ahmad, and Brother Mahmud Hashemi-Bahramani-Rafsanjani. He said that the Islamic Republic condemns these regrettable clashes and is seeking to stop them. He declared that after meeting with the Amal Movement and Hizballah leaders, a cease-fire was reached and will take effect at 2200. He noted that some forces will be withdrawn. He pointed out that the leadership of both parties responded positively to this issue.

Asked about guarantees for implementing the Damascus agreement if forces are withdrawn, Besharati said that the Damascus agreement is honored and all parties must adhere to it. He noted that when an agreement reaches the implemention stage, problems arise but that we must overcome them.

Besharati met with a Hizballah delegation and discussed how to end the bloodshed in Iqlim al-Tuffah. Hizballah responded completely to Besharati's efforts and is ready to implement the agreement concluded with the Amal Movement.

Hizballah thanked Besharati for his sincere efforts to stop the hateful internecine fighting between the Amal Movement and Hizballah. It welcomed the initiative Besharati declared in his news conference at the Iranian Embassy in Beirut. It stressed that it will adhere to the cease-fire and hopes that the other party will comply and declare its readiness for dialogue and understanding to return things to normal.

Besharati Discusses Cease-Fire

LD2812092789 Tehran IRNA in English 0615 GMT 28 Dec 89

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 28, IRNA—Warring Muslim factions in Lebanon Hizballah and Amal observed a ceasefire between themselves in the Iqlim al-Tuffah area, 40 km south of Beirut at 22.00 hours Beirut time Wednesday in the wake of mediation between them by Iranian envoys in Lebanon.

Iran's First Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati said in Beirut Wednesday night that in separate communiques both groups have undertaken to strictly observe the ceasefire and pave the way for implementation of the Damascus agreement for a total cessation of hostilities between them.

The Iranian official expressed hope that the ceasefire would lead toward a total peace between the two groups in a near future.

In an interview with print and broadcast media in Beirut Wednesday the Iranian official said that he hopes the two groups would understand the negative effects of fighting between themselves and that they would halt it in their own interest. He said that earlier on Tuesday and

Wednesday he had conferred with Al-'Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadalallah, vice-speaker of the Shiite Supreme Assembly Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, Mufti of Lebanon Shaykh 'Abd-al-Amir Qablan, and ranking officials of Hizballah and Amal Movement.

Before arriving in Beirut the Iranian envoy had also conferred with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, and Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' in same relation [as received].

'Sporadic Clashes' Reported

LD2812114189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Dec 89

[Text] Despite all efforts resulting in the establishment of a cease-fire between the forces of Amal and the Revolutionary Movement of Lebanese Hizballah, sporadic clashes occurred between the two sides this morning.

The Central News Unit reports from Beirut that the Amal Movement and the Revolutionary Movement of Hizballah once again accused each other of violating the cease-fire. The Amal Movement claims that Hizballah forces attacked its positions in (Kfar-Maddah) village last night. On the other hand, the Revolutionary Movement of Hizballah announced that Amal forces carried out an extensive attack on the villages of Kfar Milki and Jarju'. According to the latest figures, 55 people were killed and 200 injured in yesterday's clashes. The report adds that for the second consecutive day the war-stricken residents of Iqlim al-Tuffah village staged a sit-in in the mosques of Sidon and Nabatiyeh today as a means of protesting the present clashes. Meanwhile, the Islamic Republic of Iran's [IRI] delegation is stepping up its efforts to reestablish the cease-fire.

Meanwhile, Mr 'Ali Mohammad Besharati, our country's deputy foreign minister, announced in a press conference yesterday that the IRI will not accept any excuse for clashes between two Muslim resistance groups in Lebanon. Iran hopes further that the two sides will understand the negative consequences of such clashes and will put an end to the killing. He then pointed to his mission of finding a solution to end the painful clashes between the two sides. He added: Earlier in Damascus we talked to the Syrian president and foreign minister, as well as the officials of the Amal and Hizballah movements. The Syrian officials expressed their concern over these events, while welcoming our initiatives. He added: All the Islamic figureheads of Lebanon have expressed their concern over these events, while declaring their readiness for any kind of cooperation.

Mr Besharati continued his interview by emphasizing the validity of treaties signed between the Amal Movement and the Revolutionary Movement of Hizballah in Tehran and Damascus.

Speaker Al-Husayni Departs for Damascus

NC2712081089 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Text] Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies Husayn al-Husayni has left for Damascus for talks on the ongoing fighting in Iqlim al-Tuffah. He also will discuss other urgent political issues related to activating constitutionally-approved Lebanese institutions.

Al-Khazin Says Al-Hirawi To Move to Beirut

NC2412123689 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 24 Dec 89

[Text] Interior Minister Ilyas al-Khazin has said President Ilyas al-Hirawi will move to Beirut in 1 or 2 weeks. In an interview with our radio, Minister al-Khazin said any delay in ending the abnormal situation resulting from the former army commander's insubordination will be harmful to all Lebanese. The current situation means the al-Ta'if agreement is not implemented, Al-Khazin said, and that means there is a delay in extending the state's sovereignty over all Lebanese soil. 'Awn may or may not understand this fact, he said.

Those who reject the al-Ta'if agreement are cheating the people, Al-Khazin said. They claim this agreement does not guarantee sovereignty and deceives the people by showing them the document before it was amended. This is why 'Awn declined to hold a television debate with Minister George Sa'adah and Deputy Butrus Harb.

Al-Khazin said the government will act in a quiet and restrained manner in order not to hurt the interests of the people. The measures the government has taken do not aim to harm the citizens. These were just normal procedures to protect the rights of the lawful authorities and consequently preserve the public's rights. More measures will be taken to bring the Lebanese citizens closer to the lawful authorities, as represented by President Ilyas al-Hirawi and the government of Dr Salim al-Huss.

Al-Khazin described 'Awn's plans to conduct elections as show business, saying this cannot happen. He also ruled out partition as unrealistic and impossible.

Al-Khazin commented on the positions of Bkirki and the Vatican and the current divisions in East Beirut. He said the current subordination will not last and the students sooner or later will return to their homes. The steps taken by the lawful government, he said, will convince the people the abnormal situation should end. The rebellious faction has escalated the situation as far as it can, but its fall is imminent and will be as fast as its ascension to power.

Al-Khazin pointed out new passports very shortly will be issued.

Al-Ta'if: 'Last Opportunity' for Creating Peace

NC2312102789 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0930 GMT 23 Dec 89

[Text] In an interview today, Defense Minister Albert Mansur emphasized the government will use all methods and means to impose the state's authority in Lebanon. He said legitimacy ultimately must regain its authority. He hoped the dialogue will succeed in ending the odd situation, which must not continue.

Minister Mansur said the al-Ta'if agreement is the last opportunity to establish peace in Lebanon. He said: There is no alternative to the al-Ta'if agreement. It is not enough that we should reject the al-Ta'if agreement, which has been approved by all states in the world, including the Security Council. We have a clear solution that provides guarantees for the withdrawal and other issues. Mansur was asked about the plan ['Awn's liberation plan] which existed before the al-Ta'if, saying: It was a destructive war that lasted 6 months, destroyed everything, and displaced half the Lebanese people without making any progress. [sentence as heard]

Mansur pointed out it is not possible all deputies, key figures, and leaders, including the Maronite Patriarch, are against sovereignty and that General 'Awn alone is keen on sovereignty. This is illogical.

Al-Huss Returns to Beirut From Paris Conference

NC2312174889 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 23 Dec 89

[Text] Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss returned to Beirut this evening from Paris. He participated there in meetings of the Arab-European dialogue conference.

Parliamentary Group Said Formed in Paris

NC2412082689 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 24 Dec 89

[Text] Parliamentary sources announced yesterday the formation of a parliamentary group in Paris, including more than 20 deputies under the leadership of Deputy Kazim al-Khalil. The sources added Deputy al-Khalil invited the group to hold its first meeting at his house in Paris on Tuesday to plan its actions and moves.

Efforts To Arrange Deputies' Return Reported

NC2712171489 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Text] Addressing student delegations who visited him at B'abda Palace today, Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn said: You are the future of the immortal homeland. You are the generation that will be proud of its Lebanese identity. Your love for your homeland will burn out all corruption and will build a future Lebanon on a good foundation.

Gen 'Awn today also received Deputy Pierre Dakkash and Shaykh Samir al-Dahir. It was reported that efforts are under way to arrange for a number of deputies to return to the eastern area soon.

Cabinet Meets, Appeals for Release of Hostages

NC2712145789 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Text] The cabinet met under the chairmanship of President Ilyas al-Hirawi in Ablah at 1145 today. Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss and all ministers except Michel Sasin, Nabih Birri, George Sa'adah, and 'Umar Karami attended the session.

The cabinet drew attention to the grave situation in the south and stressed the necessity of adopting the necessary measures to curb the wave of violence there. The cabinet, furthermore, called on citizens not to be tools in the hands of schemers and plotters who want to partition and fragment the country.

The cabinet dealt with the continuing partitionist state and emphasized that legitimacy is the sole guarantee to all sides and sects. The cabinet seized the opportunity of Christmas and New Year's by addressing an urgent appeal to those holding hostages to release them.

The cabinet approved a draft law regarding promotion of personnel in the army, internal security forces, and public security. The cabinet also decided to prepare a development budget involving all areas in addition to the ordinary administrative budget.

Further on Cabinet Meeting

NC2712184589 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Excerpts] The cabinet met under the chairmanship of President Ilyas al-Hirawi in Ablah at 1145 today. [passage omitted]

At the end of the cabinet's session at 1415, Information Minister Edmond Rizq said: The cabinet met under His Excellency President Ilyas al-Hirawi today. Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss and the ministers were present. At the outset of the meeting, the president expressed his best wishes to all Lebanese wherever they may be—in Lebanon and in the diaspora—on the blessed occasion of Christmas and the New Year. The president expressed the hope that all the Lebanese will be in complete accord, continued health, unity, and understanding, that peace will prevail throughout Lebanon, and that the unity of all Lebanese will be further consolidated.

Minister Rizq went on to say: The president then dealt with the current struggles and fighting in the south. He cautioned against the grave situation and stressed the necessity of adopting the necessary measures to curb the fighting and waves of violence, all of which are aimed at fragmenting the country and harming its interests. The

President also warned against plots to separate the citizen from his homeland—plots which are in line with the partitionist schemes being concocted in other areas. The unity of the country is the sole guarantee for all Lebanese, and it is our principal objective on which all Lebanese will always wager.

The information minister added: The prime minister stressed the need to improve the general situation in Lebanon through political, security, and administrative measures, so that the march of legitimacy may forge ahead toward consolidating peace throughout Lebanon. The cabinet was briefed on the atmosphere that prevailed during the Arab-European dialogue which was attended by Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss. The cabinet also was briefed on meetings and contacts that took place on the sidelines of the dialogue, and on the consensus that was demonstrated during the meeting with regard to supporting Lebanese legitimacy and the national accord government.

Minister Rizq added: The cabinet then discussed the recent events in Romania. It expressed its sorrow over the victims that fell in the violence and decided to recognize the new regime in Romania. The cabinet also touched on the situation in Panama and decided to recognize the legitimate elected government there. [passage omitted]

Junblatt Describes 'Awn-'Arafat Coordination

NC2712140289 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Text] Walid Junblatt, leader of the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP], today warned against the dark clouds coming from the south. He asserted that 'Arafat is coordinating with 'Awn at the expense of Lebanon's unity, adding that the al-Rumaylah operation was a prologue to further expansion.

In an interview with the Arab press, parts of which were published by the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-QABAS today, Junblatt said: Yasir 'Arafat became the president of an imaginary state, having realized that the Palestinian state will not be built in the near future. He is looking for a geographic location and, therefore, he is coordinating with Michel 'Awn at the expense of Lebanon's unity, sovereignty, and independence, he said. Earlier, we had said that the alternative for the Palestinian state extends from Tyre to Beirut and the Mountain. We now repeat what we said earlier, he said.

Junblatt added that the al-Rumaylah operation was a prologue to further expansion. That operation was carried out when we were trying to follow Arab and international efforts to apply the al-Ta'if agreement through peaceful and military means. He asserted that manipulating the security of the south is manipulating pan-Arab security in general and Syrian security in particular. He added: This is what 'Arafat did when he imposed the Cairo declaration. I fear the dark clouds which are coming from the south, where Israel is settling Falasha and Soviet Jews.

Junblatt said: 'Awn is planning to expand northward and then southward, and he has the local, regional, and regional resources to do so.

Walid Junblatt disclosed that [Iraqi President] Saddam Husayn had asked the Arab ministerial committee why a Christian mini-state could not be established in the east. Junblatt remarked that Iraq is governed by Tariq Hanna 'Aziz, not Saddam Husayn. He and the Assyrian minority, he added, have their infamous role in imperialism.

Junblatt reiterated that he is placing all his resources at the disposal of Army Commander General Emile Lahhud who, he believes, may be assassinated. Therefore, Junblatt added, it is important that we protect his life.

The PSP leader believes that Egyptian-Syrian rapprochement is natural, particularly at this stage, when Ethiopia is seeking rapprochement with Israel and the Turks are cutting the water supply to Syria. In the future, he said, the Ethiopians may build a dam similar to the Attaturk Dam to prevent the waters of the Nile from reaching Egypt.

Junblatt believes that the Syrian-Egyptian rapprochement will reflect positively on the Lebanese situation.

Further on Junblatt Interview

NC2712160589 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Text] Minister Walid Junblatt has called for the expulsion of General Michel 'Awn. In an interview that was published today in the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-QABAS, Junblatt said that Gen 'Awn will hold the parliamentary elections that he has been preparing and will form a government under a Sunni prime minister. He added that the deputies will elect 'Awn as president. Junblatt went on to say: All this has been taking place in an illegitimate manner. Time is very much on Gen 'Awn's side and we are losing with every hour and minute that pass. He added that the Lebanese situation is complicated, the government of Prime Minister Salim al-Huss is fragmented politically and geographically, and political decisionmaking does not exist.

Michel 'Awn Rejects 'Pressures From Abroad'

NC2312091789 (Clandestine) The Lebanese Radio in Arabic 0600 GMT 23 Dec 89

[Text] In the face of the partitionist moves undertaken by Shtawrah grouping [of Dr Salim al-Huss government] with Syria's blessing, Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn has reasserted his insistence on unity. Speaking before thousands of Lebanese on the 25th day of their sit-in at B'abda, 'Awn said yesterday: The more the occupation and its stooges opt for partition, the firmer we stand on unity. We will declare a day of solidarity with the occupied areas, and we will start by declaring a day of solidarity with the north, which is suffering under the heavy yoke of occupation, at a date to be determined later.

Gen 'Awn told delegations of visitors yesterday that the first stage of the war was the stage of conspiracy and sell-out of Lebanon. Today, he added, we are in the second stage of the war, the stage of Lebanon's liberation and restoration. 'Awn said: We are trying to prove the worth of basic principles in which all can believe and from which all can benefit.

'Awn asserted that no homeland can have an identity if it lacks sovereignty and no homeland can be free unless its people are free. The people, he said, have spoken and those who conspired against them have fled.

'Awn said that a lesson must be learned from the peoples of Eastern Europe who have changed their rulers overnight. He said: What matters is that we have faith in ourselves and our ability to confront external conspiracies and to unite our ranks so as to repulse occupying armies. Those who will not defend Lebanon should leave this sacred land.

Reassuring the delegations of Lebanese, 'Awn said: I am with you until the end of the battle and until the triumph of Lebanon. All the negotiations held abroad are worthless unless the Lebanese endorse them. The al-Ta'if [agreement] has collapsed in Lebanon and cannot be revived from abroad. No agreement is possible unless it is concluded on the Lebanese soil and through the people's true representatives. We will not accept any pressure from abroad to influence our resolve, our future, and our choices.

'Awn said: Our battle today is for our existence and we have decided to survive. We will overcome all the obstacles and no one can stop us [words indistinct] in Lebanon.

'Awn Reportedly Calls 'Parliamentary Elections'

JN2712170789 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 25 Dec 89 p 18

[Report by Muhammad 'Anan and news agencies]

[Excerpt] Beirut—Despite the assertions made by Lebanese Forces Commander Samir Ja'ja' that there will be no infighting within the Christian camp, the war of words between Ja'ja' and General 'Awn is escalating. This escalation increases fears on the possible outbreak of a military confrontation between the two sides as part of the ongoing power struggle in East Beirut. Fears about the outbreak of such a confrontation between the Christian militias and 'Awn's army troops surfaced when Ja'ja' insisted on doing what was described as a show of force in Beirut—a move opposed by 'Awn—at a time when the general is waging a major battle against the supporters of the al-Ta'if agreement. The rally planned by Ja'ja' was postponed then. However, the Christian militia commander fixed tomorrow [26 December] as a final date for holding the rally.

Informed diplomatic sources in East Beirut told AL-SIYASAH that 'Awn will reply to all those who supported the al-Ta'if agreement, be they in Lebanon or the Arab world, by moving to rout the Ja'ja' militias to appear to the world as the only force to be reckoned with in the Christian enclave.

The state of extreme tension between 'Awn's troops and the Ja'ja' militias coincided with preparations by 'Awn to hold parliamentary elections in the areas under his control on 7 January. Informed sources told AL-SIYASAH that by doing this, 'Awn is seeking to pave the way for his election as a president for the area under his control.

The sources added that 'Awn will ask deputy 'Abd-al-Majid al-Rafi'i, a Sunni Muslim from Tripoli, to form a new government. It is to be recalled that deputy 'Abd-al-Majid al-Rafi'i has been living outside Lebanon since the Syrian troops' entry into Tripoli in 1976.

A number of independent politicians believe that these measures by 'Awn will consecrate the de facto partitioning of Lebanon. Meanwhile, Ja'ja' has announced his acceptance of the constitutional legitimacy of President al-Hirawi and expressed implicit support for the al-Ta'if agreement. Informed sources in east Beirut expect Ja'ja' to announce the Lebanese Forces' support for the al-Ta'if agreement in the rally expected tomorrow. [passage omitted]

Ja'ja': 'Nothing To Worry About' in East Beirut

NC2212194989 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 22 Dec 89

[Address by Lebanese Forces Commander Dr Samir Ja'ja' to visiting delegations on 22 December; place not given—recorded]

[Text] If I thank George [not further identified] and you for your Christmas congratulations, it would look a bit out of place because for a long time we have considered ourselves as part of a single family—one individual, heading in the same direction with the same goals, toward the same future.

Let me seize the opportunity of your congratulatory visit today to offer my greetings and yours to the people. I believe the best thing I could say to the people on this occasion is to assure them about their presence, future, about security and peace in the eastern area to start with, and Lebanon as a whole at a later stage. The people undoubtedly have been concerned over the military alerts that have occured. Actually, I do not understand the reason for those alerts, but regardless of the reason, let me say something I have reiterated several times before, ever since I started taking an interest in public affairs: As long as I am the commander of the Lebanese Forces [LF], collision in the eastern area is forbidden. [applause] As long as I am in charge of this establishment, I will not allow any LF personnel or LF sympathizers to undertake any action that could jeopardize security in the eastern area.

Today, O fellow men and youth, we do not lack heroism, and we do not seek to show off our bravery. If any LF personnel or other group wishes to display heroism, the eastern area is no place to prove it. There are contact lines, enemies, and there is a cause to rally around, and it is there that heroism could be displayed. [applause]

In the past, when there were rumors or concerns over a certain problem, no one used to talk about this problem until it actually occurred. Now things are different. A problem cannot be solved unless it is addressed. Today, the situation in the eastern area is not satisfactory. But I tell you now, rest assured, there is nothing to worry about in the eastern area. Let me assure each and every soldier in the Lebanese Army [LA] that in the end I am not only responsible for LF personnel or for the security of this establishment alone, but I consider myself responsible for the safety of each and every soldier and officer in the LA. [applause] I moreover consider myself responsible for the safety of each and every citizen in the eastern area. We head establishments not just to serve the interests of these establishments alone but to serve the interests of the people, the citizens, and the public. [applause]

Therefore, let no one think for a single moment there is any possibility for problems or aggressions by any member or group from the LF against any member of the LA or others. Let me tell everyone, particularly the LA fighters: Do not fear or doubt for a moment something will happen in the eastern area. More importantly, I say to the the LA fighters that the LF fighters are your brothers, sons, fellow strugglers, comrades-in-arms, and your [word indistinct]. Let me also tell them about those who are clapping their hands around you and who are trying to build their political glory out of your acts of heroism—should something go wrong tomorrow, you will look around you and not find a single one of them. Be sure that in the time of truth, difficulties and hardship, no one will be beside you but your comrades in the LF. [applause]

Sa'adah Supports Ja'ja's Call for Conference

NC2712151789 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Text] Phalangist Party leader Dr George Sa'adah has declared that he supports [Lebanese Forces Commander] Dr Samir Ja'ja's call for a Christian conference. He stressed that decisions must come from a full consensus and must represent all the leaders.

In a telephone conversation with the Voice of Lebanon, Sa'adah said that what is required today is for all forces to meet, agree among themselves, and show themselves equal to their responsibility. He emphasized that the conference should be held as soon as possible and that it should take place in an atmosphere of frankness. He said that at the conference an assessment of the situation should be made that takes the future into account. Sa'adah added: All parties will then commit themselves to the resolution that will be adopted by this Christian conference.

He remarked that the Arab tripartite committee had promised to be responsible for the implementation of everything that was agreed upon in al-Ta'if. He added that the committee has all the necessary written and verbal guarantees to enable it to do so.

Dr Sa'adah urged that the Christian conference should form a delegation to visit the tripartite committee and be briefed by it on the al-Ta'if agreement and the written guarantees.

He said that the al-Ta'if agreement is the means to liberate Lebanon, after all other methods have failed. He asked the tripartite committee to issue a written statement explaining the al-Ta'if agreement. He announced: If we have erred, we will back down. Retracting one's error is a virtue.

Vatican Said To Favor 'Alternative' to Accord

NC2812073089 (Clandestine) The Lebanese Radio in Arabic 0600 GMT 28 Dec 89

[Text] The AL-ANWAR correspondent in Paris has cited a diplomatic source in the Vatican as saying that His Holiness Pope John Paul II made the following remarks during his recent meeting with the Arab committee ministers:

1. Basically, the Lebanese problem does not center on Prime Minister 'Awn personally or B'abda Palace, because the conspiracy against Lebanon started and continued under more than one president with no progress made in the Lebanese crisis.
2. The al-Ta'if accord is more a temporary truce agreement than an agreement to bring about a radical solution. Proof of this is that the Maronite sect is not alone in opposing it but is joined by other sects, including the Druze and Shiites.
3. The Vatican explicitly supports finding an alternative to the al-Ta'if accord through an agreement among the five permanent members of the UN Security Council on executive measures to ensure that Lebanon finds a way out of its predicament.

Fatah Arresting People Connected With Syrians

NC2412155989 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 24 Dec 89

[Text] In the south, the Fatah Movement is conducting arrest campaigns in 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp and certain neighborhoods in Sidon on the basis of lists the movement obtained during its operation against the Syrian intelligence center in al-Rumaylah. The lists give the names of persons connected to Syrian intelligence.

The Fatah Movement has formed an investigation committee chaired by Kamal Midhat to interrogate 42 persons whose names were on the lists. They include members of the Palestine Liberation Front and officials in the Nasirite Popular Organization and the Islamic Group in Sidon.

It has been learned that some Lebanese nationals who had been summoned for interrogation have refused to appear before the committee, which they believe has no legal right to interrogate Lebanese nationals.

Palestinian sources have noted that Shaykh Mahir Hammud, chairman of the Muslim 'ulema grouping; Dr 'Ali 'Ammar of the Islamic Group; and Ra'if Baydawi and the so-called Abu-Jamal of the Nasirite Popular Organization were among those on the lists.

Complaints To Be Lodged Against Israel

NC2312130689 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 23 Dec 89

[Excerpts] The Foreign Ministry has sent two cables to Lebanon's missions in New York and Geneva, asking them to lodge an urgent, strongly-worded complaint with the Security Council condemning Israel for its aggression against the people of the south.

The first cable reads: The Israeli occupation authorities and agent militia have been conducting a wide-scale campaign of arrests in the Hasbayya district since the beginning of this month. They haphazardly arrested 11 people and took them to the al-Khiyam detention camp, where they were interrogated and subjected to various types of physical and mental torture. [passage omitted]

In this cable, the Foreign Ministry demands that an urgent and strongly-worded complaint be lodged against Israel within the Security Council and by the UN secretary general so that it may be condemned for the continuous campaigns of arrests it carries out against peaceful citizens and for torturing and terrorizing these and other people detained in Israeli prisons. The cable further demands that pressure be exerted on Israel to free all detainees in various Israeli prisons.

The cable asks the UN secretary general to seek the entry of the International Red Cross into these detention camps and acquaint itself with the detainees' tragic conditions.

The cable sent to Lebanon's permanent mission in Geneva demands that a complaint be lodged with the human rights committee condemning Israel for its continuous campaign of arrests and for its torture and intimidation of the detainees in the Israeli prisons. It further demands that pressure be exerted on Israel to free these detainees. [passage omitted]

Further on Israeli Attack on Communist Party Bases

Raid Leaves 3 Dead

NC2612171989 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1705 GMT 26 Dec 89

[Text] Israeli warplanes raided military positions in the town of al-Rumaylah near the monastery shortly before 1700 today. The 5-minute raid left three persons dead and a number of others wounded and caused heavy property damage. According to civil defense workers, rescue work is still in progress in a building near the Communist Party's headquarters in the area.

LCP Officials Killed

NC2612192789 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1919 GMT 26 Dec 89

[Text] According to the latest reports from Iqlim al-Kharrub's coastal area, the Israeli raid on a Lebanese Communist Party [LCP] position caused 19 LCP casualties, including at least 6 dead. The injured were taken to Sidon hospitals, Iqlim al-Kharrub's clinics, and the American University Hospital in West Beirut.

AFP has quoted an LCP source as saying that two senior party members were among the dead.

Hizballah Radio Views U.S. Action in Panama

NC2312111589 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 23 Dec 89

[Political commentary: "Washington Between Illusion and Reality"]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The U.S. Administration is occupied these days with the pursuit of Panama's strong General Noriega. After destroying and obliterating residential neighborhoods and yet failing to find him, it has found itself compelled to maintain the current situation until Noriega is caught by U.S. justice. The truth is that Washington is not so much looking for Noriega to arrest him as it is seeking to establish a government loyal to it in Panama that would allow it to influence affairs in the country and maintain its control over the strategic Panama Canal, which is guarded by at least 10,000 U.S. paratroopers. [passage omitted]

In Panama, the problem between the Americans and Noriega lies within the following province: A strong man wants to take the country outside the sphere of U.S. policy. A day may come when the strategic canal returns to Panamanian custody, perhaps when its lease to Washington expires after a few years. Such an end represents a catastrophe to the Americans who see that control over the canal permits them to exercise power over waterways in general and over trade, military shipping, and similar matters. These combined factors are the secret of U.S.

power and influence in Central America. If the canal is lost, the mask of influence will fall. [passage omitted]

Without commenting on Noriega as a person, his behavior and ties, and the nature of the charges that Washington levels against him in a manner that makes the issue appear like a personal affair, we find that the U.S. Administration is again contravening a nation's will, policies, and aspirations to self-determination. Noriega is not a usurper of power but is an actual ruler who enjoys the support of the masses in a sovereign state. In light of U.S.-Panamanian relations, Washington is not the party qualified to assist in settling Panama's problems, that is if we assume that there are problems there other than those provoked by the U.S. Administration itself and its security, military, and media apparata. [passage omitted]

We can say that Washington, under the slogan of pursuing Noriega, after the preparatory move of leveling fabricated charges against him, wants to introduce a new colonial phase into Panama. The massive military concentration, numbering at least 25,000 U.S. troops, participating in the campaign of aggression against Panama is proof of this.

If the matter had been as Washington alleges—namely, that Noriega is an outlaw and acts against his people's will—it would have been sufficient to send a few hundred troops or to send assistance to the majority who oppose Noriega. This majority would then topple him. However, the large size of the aggressor forces proves that the majority is not against him but indeed supports him and that Washington wants with the help of 25,000 soldiers to fight an entire nation, not an individual. Noriega has become a Panamanian symbol. Aggression against him is aggression against Panama. The quest to arrest him constitutes a quest to recolonize the country directly. They want to arrest Noriega to push through U.S. custodianship over the canal against all opposition and resistance. What is important is that the canal should remain in the American grasp. Anything else is empty talk and allegations. This is the truth. The rest are U.S. illusions from the cowboy world.

Diplomatic Relations Restored With Egypt

JN2712185089 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1810 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Text] Damascus, 27 Dec (SANA)—A joint declaration was issued this evening in Damascus and Cairo on the visit to Syria by 'Atif Sidqi, the prime minister of the Arab Republic of Egypt. The following is the text of the declaration:

Based on the close, historic ties between the Arab people in Syria and Egypt and the bright chapters of their joint struggle throughout Arab history in confronting all challenges the Arab nation faced or might have faced; based on their pride in their genuine Arab affiliation and their adherence to the Arab League Charter and the legitimate aims of the Arab nation; in view of their awareness of repercussions of contemporary international developments and of their effects on the Arab action; and in view of their belief in the need to achieve a comprehensive Arab detente, which constitutes the sound basis for joint Arab action with the aim of preserving the Arab nation's interests and upholding the voice of its people, who aspire to progress and prosperity; and as an expression of the firm determination of the peoples of the two fraternal countries to bolster brotherly relations between them in all fields, the governments of the Syrian Arab Republic and the Arab Republic of Egypt have agreed to restore diplomatic relations as of today, Wednesday, 27 December, 1989.

[Signed] Head of the Council of Ministers in the Syrian Arab Republic, Engineer Mahmud al-Zu'bi
Head of the Council of Ministers in the Arab Republic of Egypt, Dr 'Atif Sidqi

Further on Egyptian Prime Minister Sidqi's Visit

Comments on Relations

JN2712145089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Text] Damascus—President Hafiz al-Asad at 1140 today received Dr 'Atif Sidqi, prime minister of the Arab Republic of Egypt and President Husni Mubarak's envoy. Mahmud al-Zu'bi, prime minister, and 'Amr Musa, ambassador at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry, attended the meeting.

Dr Sidqi arrived in Damascus at 1030 today. He was received at Damascus International Airport by Al-Zu'bi; Muhammad Salman, minister of information; Dr Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade; Dr Sabah Baqjaji, minister of state for planning affairs; Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs; the assistants to the ministers of foreign affairs and economy; and a number of officials. After shaking hands with those welcoming him, Dr Sidqi and Al-Zu'bi headed for the VIP lounge, where they rested for a short while.

In a statement to a SANA correspondent, Dr 'Atif Sidqi expressed great happiness at visiting Damascus. He said: I have visited Damascus dozens of times on different occasions. My last visit was in 1968 or 1969 to attend a meeting under the supervision of the Afro-Asian Solidarity Organization. In fact, when someone returns to Damascus after this period, he feels as though he was in Damascus yesterday, because Damascus and Syria have never been absent from Egypt. I am sure of Egypt's presence in the mind of the brothers in Syria—government, people, and leadership. The intensive meetings that recently occured and the contacts between the two leaderships and governments to melt the ice accumulated as a result of the circumstances you all know. Sidqi added: We in Egypt are glad about this and are very keen to see the Arab nation united in its word and to see accord become the basis of relations and reconciliation prevailing among the Arab people. You know full well the nature of contacts that recently occured, and the feelings expressed, whether by President Hafiz al-Asad toward Egypt or by President Husni Mubarak toward sisterly Syria.

The Egyptian prime minister said: A few days ago Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam visited us. We were very pleased at this visit, particularly as it came at this level, thus expressing the Syrian-Egyptian desire to resume their relations in a better way, God willing. Dr Sidqi said: Although Khaddam visited Egypt a few days ago, I wanted to come to Damascus to meet the brother officials in Syria to resume our talks regarding steps that can and must be taken in the coming stage to reinforce the historic ties and promote the historic role of Syria and Egypt in the service of the Arab nation. We, whether in Syria or in Egypt, are proud to be affiliated with this step. I hope I will succeed in achieving the hopes of our two peoples. The Egyptians harbor every love and appreciation of Syria.

Answering a question on an anticipated summit meeting between Presidents al-Asad and Mubarak, Dr Sidqi said: The meeting has been decided on in principle between the two presidents; however, arranging the date is left up to the two presidents. My personal opinion is this meeting will not be far off.

Asked about the most important issues and topics to be discussed in today's meeting, Dr Sidqi said: I hope today's meeting will remove the remaining ice. As I have said and as 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam said during his visit to Cairo, some technical delegations will exchange visits. We are not hesitant to pave the way for cooperation in the coming stage. The purpose of today's meetings is to achieve a great step, God willing, to restore normal relations between the two sisterly countries and peoples.

Answering journalists' questions on Dr Sidqi's visit to Damascus, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi said: We are very happy about the visit of brother Dr 'Atif Sidqi, prime minister of the Arab Republic of Egypt, and the brother members of the fraternal Egyptian delegation. We are happy about meeting with them in their country, Syria, whose relations with Cairo have been consolidated throughout history, based on deep understanding of common struggle, bonds, and fraternity. He said: These historic ties between Damascus and Cairo always will remain invincible, because this relationship has constituted the center of power and impregnability for the Arabs in the past, and will continue to do so now and in the future. The period of estrangement during those years has intensified the Egyptians' and Syrians' feelings of longing and desire for the moment of reconciliation and return—side by side—to cooperation. Syrian-Egyptian fraternity and cooperation are a return to normalcy, a linking of what was broken, a return of the brothers and dear ones to their positions, and an opening of a chapter of relations based on pan-Arab fraternity and common destiny, expressing the will of the one Arab people in the two sisterly countries—relations that inevitably will produce well-being, giving, and strength for the entire Arab nation. The Arabs become stronger when Syria and Egypt come together; and when they separate, the Arabs will become weak. Events surrounding the Arab nation and circumstances prevailing in the world urgently call on Egypt and Syria to return to one other within the framework of relations based on understanding and solidarity in the service of higher pan-Arab interests.

Al-Zu'bi added: As I express my happiness today at meeting my brother Dr 'Atif Sidqi and the Egyptian brothers, I also express the feelings of joy and hope of all of us, as well as our belief in the importance of this joint march on the path of cooperation—a march that will be characterized by continuous meetings and contacts, and by work to lay down effective plans to embody what we look for in the various economic, cultural, scientific, and trade fields, as well as others.

Al-Zu'bi said: We are confident we have many issues ahead of us. The discussion of these issues will help us prescribe required formulas that will meet the aspirations of our people in Syria and Egypt, so the first steps along the course of cooperation, coordination, and integration will be appropriate to achieve and embody our common hopes in the interest of our two countries and the Arab nation.

Answering a question on the resumption of diplomatic relations between Syria and Egypt, Al-Zu'bi said: As my brother and friend Dr 'Atif Sidqi said, his visit to Damascus today comes to complete what was started a long time ago by Syria and Egypt. As you have noticed, the two sides attest we ultimately will reach better relations that underline and consolidate the sentiments of the Arab people in Syria and Egypt, who always are eager to achieve rapprochement, cohesion, and good relations in all fields.

Sidqi and Al-Zu'bi then headed to the Prime Ministry in an official motorcade, where they conducted a meeting attended by Yusuf Sakkur, assistant foreign minister, and 'Amr Musa, ambassador at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry. During this meeting the two sides reviewed results of meetings between officials in Egypt and Syria and issues related to the measures, horizons, and dimensions of cooperation in all fields to strengthen the bases of the developing convergence between Syria and Egypt, which will meet the will of the Syrian and Egyptian people and achieve their common interests. They also discussed a number of bilateral issues of common interest, and exchanged opinions and ideas on how to promote the course of cooperation between sisterly Syria and Egypt.

Dr Sidqi is accompanied in his visit to Damascus by a ranking Egyptian technical delegation.

Meets Vice President Khaddam

JN2712201089 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1850 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Text] Damascus, 27 Dec (SANA)—Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam received at 1315 this afternoon Egyptian Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi. Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi attended the meeting.

During the meeting they discussed plans for joint action between fraternal Syria and Egypt and ideas on formulating future work. They agreed to conduct future contacts to follow up discussions on this subject.

Calls Al-Asad 'Great Leader'

JN2712205089 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Text] Before departing Damascus today, Egyptian Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi made a statement to reporters. He said: This morning we arrived in Damascus filled with great hopes to develop and strengthen Syrian-Egyptian ties. I can say what has taken place has surpassed all positive factors that, before arriving, had been at the back of our minds.

Sidqi said: Today we were honored by meeting President Hafiz al-Asad. His remarks were those of a great leader in the full sense of the word, full of warmth and cordiality toward Egypt and the entire Arab nation. His excellency recalled all the relations of cooperation that have tied Syria to Egypt throughout history. Even when he referred to complications at a certain phase, his excellency indicated they were an experience which should benefit us in strengthening future contacts. His remarks were those of a leader and a statesman in the full sense of the word.

Sidqi added: President Hafiz al-Asad reviewed the various aspects of Egyptian-Syrian cooperation, whose roots continue to exist in part between the two countries. His excellency was eager to note the need for improving them and cooperating in various economic, cultural, political, information, and scientific fields.

Answering reporters' questions on the date of the summit meeting between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Husni Mubarak, Sidqi said: A summit is in the offing, but not in terms of time and day. I can say it will be conducted in the first days of January.

Answering another question on forming joint working committees between the two countries, he said; The working paper I received from Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi envisages forming of such committees in various domains. All these things will be discussed in the forthcoming summit between presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Husni Mubarak.

Concluding his statement, Dr Sidqi said: I express my deepest thanks and gratitude to President Hafiz al-Asad and the Syrian officials for the hospitality and honor accorded us. What is more important is thanking them for the good spirit that prevailed today during our talks. I also thank the fraternal Syrian people for their efforts for the sake of the Arab nation's progress and prosperity.

Answering a question by reporters on the Syrian working paper, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi said: The working paper includes aims and principles for future cooperation in all economic, commercial, touristic, industrial, and agricultural fields. It also includes provisions for encouraging labor and free movements, as well as other measures. The paper also included a proposal for forming a higher committee and subcommittes to discuss cooperation pending economic integration in all fields. He added: I support what my brother Dr Sidqi said on the future of relations, and this will be announced this evening in Cairo and Damascus. I take this oportunity to express pleasure for meeting with Dr Sidqi and our Egyptian brothers. I also voice our joint pleasure, hoping to realize improved cooperation in all fields.

Al-Zu'bi added: The march of joint action has been going on for some time, and today has made an important leap because of Dr Sidqi's visit. More joint achievements will be realized in the interest of our two peoples and countries. Certainly, in the course of cooperation we will have a phase of contacts, meetings, and work sessions to reach the best formulas that embody the true aspirations of our peoples in the two fraternal countries, in terms of establishing better ties and advanced, joint cooperation in the future.

Departs Damascus 27 Dec

JN2712171089 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1540 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Text] Damascus, 27 Dec (SANA)—Egyptian Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi and his accompanying delegation left Damascus at 1715 this afternoon after a short visit to the Syrian Arab Republic.

Leading the send-off party at Damascus International Airport was Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi. Also seeing him off were Information Minister Muhammad Salman; Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade; Sabah Baqjaji, minister of state for planning affairs; Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs; the two assistant ministers of foreign affairs and economy; and a number of other officials.

PNF Central Command Supports Egypt Contacts

JN2712192889 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Text] The National Progressive Front [PNF] Central Command held a meeting under the chairmanship of President Hafiz al-Asad at 1315 today. The PNF Central Command reviewed the situation and developments in the Arab arena and Syria's efforts, under President Hafiz al-Asad's leadership, to consolidate the Arab stand and reinforce Arab cooperation and solidarity in the face of the enemy and its plots, as well as to strengthen the pan-Arab struggle to achieve pan-Arab objectives and defend the Arab nation's issues, particularly the Palestine question.

The PNF Central Command also reviewed Syrian-Egyptian contacts within the framework of reinvigorating Arab solidarity in service of the Palestine question and other pan-Arab causes. The PNF Central Command expressed satisfaction with the steps taken regarding this and affirmed its support for this trend.

The PNF Central Command reviewed the work of the PNF and underlined the importance of its role and effectiveness in Syria's political life.

USSR Economic Delegation Arrives in Damascus

JN2612080089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 26 Dec 89

[Text] USSR Foreign Economic Relations Minister Katushev arrived in Damascus last night, heading an official delegation on a several-day visit to the country. The guest delegation will hold talks with Syrian officials aimed at deepening relations of economic cooperation between the two friendly countries.

Economic Talks Held

JN2612155589 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1512 GMT 26 Dec 89

[Text] Damascus, 26 Dec (SANA)—Syrian Arab and Soviet delegations began economic talks here today.

The meeting was attended on the Syrian side by Dr Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade; Eng 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Madani, minister of irrigation; Dr Kamil al-Baba, minister of electricity; Dr Sabah Baqjaji, minister of state for planning affairs; and the governor of the Central Bank of Syria.

The meeting was attended on the Soviet side by Katushev, USSR minister of foreign economic relations, and his delegation.

Discussions during the meeting dealt with the promotion of economic and trade relations between Syria and the Soviet Union.

Libya's Armed Forces Commander Arrives 27 Dec

JN2812081089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Text] Damascus—Colonel Abu-Bakr Yunus, commander in chief of the Libyan Armed Forces, and the delegation accompanying him, arrived this evening at Damascus International Airport. He was received by General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces, deputy prime minister, and defense minister; General 'Ali Aslan, deputy chief of the general staff; and the head of the Libyan Liaison Bureau in Damascus and the bureau's senior staff.

Khaddam, Lebanese Deputy Discuss Situation

JN2712192489 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1820 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Text] Damascus, 27 Dec (SANA)—Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam at 1730 today received Husayn al-Husayni, speaker of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies. Their talks dealt with developments in Lebanon and the need to reinforce the power of Lebanese legitimacy to restore the country's unity, remove divisionist phenomena, and implement the national charter document endorsed by the Lebanese Chamber of deputies. They also reviewed the situation and its developments.

Al-Ahmar Confers With Lebanese Party Leaders

JN2312174089 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1520 GMT 23 Dec 89

[Text] Damascus, 23 Dec (SANA)—'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, today met with Dawud Baz, head of the Syrian Social Nationalist Party's Higher Council in Lebanon, and a number of members of the party leadership.

Talks during the meeting dealt with Lebanese developments, the need to promote joint action of the various parties, organizations, and national key figures for the sake of salvaging Lebanon and its people from the anomalous situation represented by 'Awn's insurgence, and for the sake of consolidating the march of national accord among the Lebanese.

Commentary on Need To 'Tighten Siege' on 'Awn

JN2712163889 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] Dear listeners; Lebanon's unity—land and people—is the obvious truth being affirmed on the ground of reality. This truth is making it clear that attempts to harm this unity are rejected by the Lebanese people, who are moving with confident steps down the road of salvation, while rallying to legitimacy and the national accord government.

This truth has surfaced through the isolation experienced by the mutinous 'Awn in Lebanon, the Arab world, and internationally, and since his suicidal partitionist scheme has reached a dead end. This confirms the belief that removing the partitionist state represented by this mutinous officer is the only remaining way for the Lebanese to continue on the course of saving Lebanon, placing it on the path of national salvation, and blocking the inlets of the Zionist conspiracies that target Lebanon—land, existence, and people.

It has become evident the Arab solution is the only one capable of saving Lebanon and retrieving its unity within the framework of accord and clear national belonging. The Lebanese people have expressed their adherence to this solution, which is being realized on the ground of reality through positive and constructive measures represented by the declaration of the national accord document, establishment of the legitimate authority, concentrated efforts to spread the control of this authority over all Lebanese territories, and consolidated efforts to liberate southern Lebanon from Israeli occupation.

Within the framework of this policy, the national accord government in Lebanon continues to take legal measures to tighten the siege on mutinous 'Awn, and remove any screen he might hide behind. This has revealed his true colors as a mutinous rebel seeking partition after he failed to quench his lust for rule and opted to continue his suicidal project.

Lebanese in the eastern sector have become fully aware of this. They have begun to realize the facts behind the crisis in which 'Awn has trapped them as a result of his madness, stubbornness, and links to the Zionist scheme aggressive to Lebanon and its people.

The necessity of multiplying efforts to end the partitionist state represented by mutinous 'Awn therefore becomes clear, as well as the need to tighten the Lebanese, Arab, and international siege around him when the struggle and national resistance of the Lebanese people is increasing against Zionist occupation in the south. The Lebanese people know very well the salvation march, which began with the declaration of the national accord document and was realized by establishment of the legitimate authority representing the unity of Lebanon's land and people, must take on its full dimensions on ending the partition state, kicking out the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon, and buttressing Lebanon against the dangers of the Zionist conspiracy—whose worn-out tool is 'Awn.

Lebanese people have the experience of struggle, qualifying them to ensure the national salvation march attains its goals, because these people, who foiled the 17 May agreement and defeated the Israeli occupation, today are determined to thwart 'Awn's suicidal and partitionist scheme, since he is the obstacle to Lebanon's resumption of normal life and continuation of the salvation and unity march to regain its natural role in Arab and international circles.

Press Cited on 'Imminent Downfall' of 'Awn

JN2712120089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Press review]

[Text] In its editorial, the newspaper TISHRIN talks about the self-restraint policy adopted by the national accord government toward 'Awn, who represents an anomalous situation, to prevent bloodshed. TISHRIN says: The stand adopted by the national accord government in Lebanon, through giving an opportunity to political efforts at finding a solution to the problem of the rebels in East Beirut, was not dictated by the government's reluctance to end the aberrant situation there. It was in fact taken on humanitarian grounds, foremost of which are ending bloodshed and preventing new disasters befalling Lebanon. There is another factor which encouraged the adoption of this decision—that is, the legitimate authority's endeavor to deepen 'Awn's isolation on the local, Arab, and international levels. This was crystallized when the Arab and international stands supported the national accord government, declaring it as the only legitimate, recognized authority.

TISHRIN goes on to say: But the problem is 'Awn and his faction did not respond either to the will of Lebanon, the Arabs, or the world. Neither did 'Awn show any move to prevent new collisions in Lebanon. On the contrary, he pressed ahead with his intransigence and rejection of the al-Ta'if agreement and started to deepen the partitionist situation in East Beirut.

TISHRIN adds: The self-restaint policy practiced by the national accord government has yielded good results. But in return, the mutiny phenomenon continued. As the national accord government has put it, "this policy will never last forever because it totally is impossible to allow the partitionist phenomenon to deepen and proliferate." It has become clear partition not only is a threat to Lebanon, but also to Syria's security. If the partitionist phenomenon is left to grow, it will be like planting a bomb in the Syrian body. This cannot be ignored or tolerated. Those who wager on the continuation of the partitionist state in East Beirut should reconsider their calculations. The anomalous situation there will not continue under any circumstances or considerations. At the same time, it should be made clear the al-Ta'if agreement, which represents the minimum level of the national Lebanese unanimity, is a comprehensive framework for solution, recognized both on the Arab and international levels. For this reason, talk about amending this agreement or adding new clauses to it that might change its contents is out of the question.

TISHRIN concludes: The rebels should realize their situation is insecure and unstable. They moreover should realize the hand of justice will reach them wherever they are and whatever measures they adopt, and that illusions will not save them from their black destiny, which awaits them.

Under the headline "The Anomalous Situation Is Nearing Its End," AL-BA'TH newspaper says: The moves made by the Lebanese legitimacy on all levels, out of its concern for redeeming the anomalous situation represented by the rebel officer Michel 'Awn, have resulted in important gains which bode the imminent realization of the final objective, which is, to put an end to this issue, regain unity of the homeland and its sons, and liberate the occupied part of southern Lebanon.

AL-BA'TH adds: The rebel officer relieved of his responsibilties no longer possesses anything but false claims and farcical propaganda which prove, day by day, his final downfall is impending. This downfall will regain Lebanon's unity and give new impetus to it to go on to graver tasks, beginning with the liberation of the south and ending with reconstruction and building to lay the foundations of the new republic.

In its comment, AL-THAWRAH talks about unanimity of the Lebanese people with all their factions on national accord and their adherence to legitimacy. It says: By the will of all its sons and the unanimity of its factions and sects on the issue of accord and its adherence to legitimacy, represented by President al-Hirawi and the accord government, Lebanon has made large strides with confidence toward achieving national accord, regaining security and stability on all the Lebanese land, and providing security for all Lebanese. The partitionist state never can triumph, and its advocates are bound to vanish because partition is considered a red line by the unanimous view of the Lebanese people.

Afghanistan

Assembly Board Condemns U.S. 'Invasion' of Panama

LD2812093889 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0454 GMT 28 Dec 89

[Text] Kabul, Dec. 27, BAKHTAR—The Executive Board of the House of Representatives and Senate of the National Assembly held a joint meeting here today during which they discussed among other matters the report of the commission on International Affairs of the House of Representatives about the situation in Panama.

The Executive Boards of the both houses of the National Assembly stressed that the military invasion of the U.S.A. on the Republic of Panama is a flagrant violation of the basic principles of the UN Charter as well as inter-state relations.

The National Assembly of the Republic of Afghanistan has called upon the United States to pull out its soldiers from Panama and to end its interference into the internal affairs of that country.

'Dozens' Said Killed in Mujahidin Rocket Attacks

BK2712140189 Hong Kong AFP in English 1357 GMT 27 Dec 89

[By Pratap Chakravarty]

[Text] Kabul, Dec 27 (AFP)—Afghan rebels fired at least 52 rockets into Kabul Wednesday, the 10th anniversary of the Soviet invasion, killing dozens of people and hitting military garrisons, ministries and houses, officials here said.

A government spokesman said "dozens" of people had died in the devastating rocket attacks across the city—some of the fiercest bombing this year—and authorities were still counting the casualties. "The entire city has been hit and most of the rockets concentrated in the areas of the airport, the Intercontinental Hotel and densely populated suburbs," the spokesman said as the rocketting continued into the evening.

A junior school was hit as this reporter was walking past it towards the Afghan Foreign Ministry, the blasts blowing him off his feet. School faculty said only two children were injured by flying glass, adding that some 60 small boys had gone home half an hour before the rocket fell.

The government of President Najibullah has ordered his ruling communist party members to join the city's self-defence patrols as reports came in that the government was likely to issue firearms to loyal officials in case an attempt is made to storm the city.

Combat troops carrying rocket launchers and machine guns have taken over deserted streets around the centre of the city where at least four rockets hit, including one that slammed through a garrison housing the elite presidential troops.

"The presidential palace is not hit," the spokesman said, adding that further details of the attacks and casualties would be announced on television later in the day. He said armed forces have launched ground, artillery and air attacks on three suspected mujahidin bases in the hills ringing the capital and had killed more than 70 rebels in sustained bombing of their positions since Tuesday.

The Kabul airport remained closed for several hours and opened intermittently to allow military planes to land, said soldiers, who have since been reinforced with heavy weapons. Key government officials of several ministries have been ordered to stay on in their offices overnight, but the spokesman described that as a "usual security measure."

Tension remains tangible in this city of 1.5 million people and a few pedestrians were seen running or walking briskly home. Some were seen crying.

The rockets started falling at 8.00 a.m. (0330 GMT) and by midday had landed behind the building housing the ruling Central Committee. Cars disappeared from the streets and at least two rockets slammed into the posh Shar-e Nau central district.

At least 15 rockets hit around the airport, a frequent mujahidin target and vital to the government because of a continuing Soviet airlift of supplies and munitions for the snow encircled city.

Buildings shook and window panes rattled in the downtown area around the Kabul Hotel throughout the day as government gunners responded with Soviet made surface-to-surface missiles.

The attack on the Afghan capital, the fiercest launched by resistance mujahidin from the mountains around the capital this year, coincided with the 10th anniversary of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, and followed a 30 rocket barrage on the city Tuesday which left eight dead and at least 12 injured.

18 Residents Injured

LD2712151789 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Text] Today Pakistan-backed extremists again showed their opposition to the peaceful and calm life of our compatriots by firing U.S. surface-to-surface rockets on the residential areas of Kabul city. The BIA's [BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY] military section reports that as a result of the rocket attacks on various parts of Kabul as a part of the U.S. and Pakistan state terrorism by their puppets to kill our faithful and Muslim compatriots, as many as 18 residents of Kabul, including children and women, have been wounded.

The injured were immediately taken to hospitals and are under intensive care and treatment. The rockets also caused material damage.

Rallies Held on Anniversary of Soviet Invasion

BK2712133289 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Text] Rallies were held in [words indistinct] the 10th anniversary of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. Addressing big rallies at Nasir Bagh and (Bhadli), the president of the Islamic interim government of Afghanistan, Professor Sebghatullah Mojaddedi, and the prime minister, Mr 'Abdul Rab Rasul Sayyaf, highlighted the decade-long armed struggle of Afghan mujahidin against the Soviet and Kabul regime forces.

Najibullah Orders Opening Kabul-Qarah Bagh Road

LD2712103689 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0518 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Excerpt] Kabul, Dec. 26, BAKHTAR—Under the instruction of Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan, Kabul-Qarah Bagh highway was opened to traffic today. The instruction was made during a meeting of President Najibullah with elders and representatives of the people of Shakar Darreh. Mir Bacheh Kowt, Bagram, Estalef, Qarah Bagh, Kohdaman [as received] and Kalakan, yesterday. [passage omitted]

Najibullah Meets With Kapisa Province's Leaders

LD2712103889 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0512 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Text] Kabul, Dec. 26, BAKHTAR—Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan [RA] met in the Gol Khanah Presidential Palace with the elders, chieftains and representatives of the residents of Tagab District, Kapisa Province, east of the country, today.

A BAKHTAR correspondent reported that at the outset of the meeting Daud Razmyar, secretary of the PDPA CC [People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan Central Committee] delivered his brief speech to the meeting.

Later, a number of the people's representatives expressed their views on the situation in that district and set forth their proposals for the ensurance of peace there. They appreciated President Najibullah's role and his peaceful initiatives for the maintenance of a nation-wide peace and cessation of war and bloodshed in the country.

Then President Najibullah, spoke in detail on politico-military situation of the country, realisation of national reconciliation policy, interferences of Pakistan, USA and Saudi Wahhabis in the internal affairs of Afghanistan.

President Najibullah demanded them to convey his peaceful message to the opposition of RA state and invite them to take part in the process of ensurance of peace and security in the country.

The Tagab inhabitants assured Najibullah that they will do their utmost in the field.

At the end of the meeting prayer was made for the cessation of war and bloodshed in the country as well as prosperity and welfare of the Afghan society.

Decree Establishes Vanguard Toilers Organization

LD2212120989 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 21 Dec 89

[Text] The Presidential Office reports that Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, has issued the following decree to permit the formation of the Vanguard Toilers Organization:

Decree by the president on permitting the formation of the Vanguard Toilers Organization of Afghanistan.

Following the provisions of Article 5 of the Constitution of the Republic of Afghanistan and Article 8 of the Law on Political Parties, consent is hereby given to the formation of the Vanguard Toilers Organization of Afghanistan.

This body is dutybound to act in accordance with the instructions of Article 11 of the Law on Political Parties.

[Signed] Najibullah, President of Afghanistan

Najibullah Greets GDR Party Chairman Gysi

LD2212115889 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0515 GMT 21 Dec 89

[Text] Kabul, Dec. 20, BAKHTAR—Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan and general secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, PDPA, has sent a congratulatory message addressed to Gregor Gysi, on his election as chairman of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany to Berlin today.

Confidence is expressed in the message that the consolidation and expansion of friendly relations and cooperation among our parties and countries are in the interests of the peoples of the Repubic of Afghanistan and German Democratic Republic, as well as for peace and the world stability. We highly appreciate effective steps of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany aimed at ensurance of life and prosperity of the people, the message stresses.

Council of Ministers Discusses Economy

LD2712105989 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0527 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Text] Kabul, Dec. 26, BAKHTAR—The periodical session of the Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers was held here today presided over by its chairman Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand.

The subjects related to the improved management of the undeniable economic activities in the Republic of Afghanistan were assessed at the meeting and it was pointed out that the continuation of war caused huge human and material losses to the people.

The Council of Ministers approved that a management commission on undelayable economic activities be set up. The said commission is to assess systematically the urgent tasks for speeding up the forwarding process, improved border management, growth of export as well as the import of primary materials, ever-further attraction of private sector and entrepreneurs in the sphere of economic growth and seeking new arena of economic cooperation with foreign countries.

The Council of Ministers also adopted a resolution in which specific guidelines have been given on nationality affairs and duties were assigned to the relative organs.

It was also approved at the session that a national program for clearing up Afghan territory from mines planted by the extremist groups be laid out and practical measures be taken in this respect with the assistance of experts and international organisations and thus enabling the safe return of the refugees to their homeland as well as that of the economic rehabilitation.

Bangladesh

Demonstrators Protest Tax Hikes, Corruption

BK2712103689 Hong Kong AFP in English 1029 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Text] Dhaka, Dec 27 (AFP)—Demonstrators set off at least 10 crude bombs injuring some 20 people including policemen Wednesday [27 December] during an opposition protest against tax hikes and corruption in the Dhaka municipality, witnesses said.

Police also opened fire, apparently with blank cartridges, and hurled teargas as more than 500 demonstrators tried to stage a sit-in around the main Dhaka municipal corporation offices in the Luxmi Bazaar area of the city, which was ringed by several hundred armed police and paramilitary personnel.

One bomb went off yards away from where a group of reporters including an AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE correspondent were covering the incident, but none was hurt.

The demonstration was called by the opposition seven-party alliance led by Begum Khaleda Zia's Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and the left-wing five-party alliance headed by Nirmal Sen's Krishak Sramik Samajbadi Dal.

It targeted alleged official corruption and a "drastic" hike in local taxes on property and utility services for the 1989-1990 fiscal year, and was also part of an ongoing campaign to oust the government of President Hussain Mohammad Ershad.

A police officer on duty said "five of our men received splinter injuries and there could be more." Local residents said at least 15 panic-stricken demonstrators were injured when police opened fire and threw teargas canisters. A senior police officer used a loudspeaker to urge demonstrators armed with bricks and sticks to "please go home and not cause unnecessary trouble."

Seven-party alliance leader and BNP secretary-general Salam Talukder said as he hurriedly left the area accompanied by supporters that "we demonstrated peacefully and we are not involved in the violence." He said the protest was "successful" as it made people aware of the complaints about the municipality.

Similar demonstrations were also staged in other Bangladesh districts, alliance sources said, but could not immediately give details.

The police action caused traffic jams and forced shops to close for half a day, the duration of the demonstration.

Mr. Talukder also alleged that the recent appointment of Minister for Local Government and Cooperatives Naziur Rahman as mayor of Dhaka by Mr. Ershad was undemocratic as he was not elected. Deputy Mayor Shamsuzzaman Mintu dismissed the opposition claims as all false, adding, "You can tell them to prove their charges against us."

Mr. Mintu said the city's face has changed during the regime of Mr. Ershad and rejected opposition demands for the resignation of the mayor.

The opposition has been long campaigning for the resignation of General Ershad, who seized power in a 1982 bloodless coup from an elected BNP government, and fair elections under a neutral caretaker government.

11 'Seriously' Injured

BK2812015889 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 28 Dec 89

[Text] A police press release says 15 people were arrested from Rashtra Bazaar area in the capital to bring under control the situation arising out of the demonstration program called by different political parties and alliances yesterday. Eleven persons, including seven policemen and four ansars [volunteers], have been seriously injured from bomb blasts and stone throwing by the unruly people.

PRC Naval Commander Meets With President Ershad

BK2312155289 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 23 Dec 89

[Text] The visiting Chinese Navy chief of the People's Liberation Army of China, Vice Admiral Zhang Lianzhong, called on President Ershad at the Supreme Command Headquarters in Dhaka today. Admiral Zhang stayed with the president for some time.

India

Forces To Withdraw From 6 Sri Lankan Districts

BK2812035089 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr I.K. Gujral, told the Rajya Sabha today that the deinduction of IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] will be completed in six of the eight districts of the Northeastern Province [of Sri Lanka] by the end of this month. He said the government is in close touch with the Sri Lankan Government to ensure that the safety and security of Tamils and other communities in the Northeastern Province of the island are strengthened simultaneously with the withdrawal of IPKF.

In Madras, the Tamil Nadu chief minister, Mr M. Karunanidhi, said he will hold discussions with the chief minister of the northeastern provincial council of Sri Lanka, Mr Varadaraja Perumal, on the Sri Lankan Tamil issue. Announcing this to newsmen today, Mr Karunanidhi said he received a communication regarding this from the external affairs minister, Mr I.K. Gujral, this morning.

Nepalese Foreign Minister To Visit 2 January

BK2812075489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 28 Dec 89

[Text] The foreign ministers of India and Nepal are to hold talks next week to resolve outstanding problems between the two countries. The Lok Sabha was informed today that the Nepalese foreign minister has been invited to visit India from next Tuesday [2 January]. In a written answer, the external affairs minister, Mr I.K. Gujral, said the government has taken steps to build an era of cooperation and friendship in South Asia consistent with our national interest and security.

In another written answer, Mr Gujral expressed the government's commitment to deinduct the PKF [peacekeeping force] from Sri Lanka as fast as practicable. He said keeping the logistical and other factors in mind, it should be possible to complete the deinduction by the end of March next.

Senior Pakistani Official Expected 'Soon'

BK2712161089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Text] A senior Pakistani official is expected to visit India soon for talks on bilateral relations. The external affairs minister, Mr I.K. Gujral, told the Rajya Sabha today that the question of Pakistan's help to subversive elements in the Kashmir Valley has been taken up with that country.

Replying to supplementaries, he said the reference to the rights of minorities in India in the resolution passed by the Pakistan Senate some time back is a direct intervention in the internal affairs of our country.

Foreign Minister Offers Support for Romania

BK2812090689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 28 Dec 89

[Text] India has warmly welcomed the movement in Romania toward a more humane and liberal system in that country. Making a suo moto statement in the Lok Sabha today, the external affairs minister, Mr I.K. Gujral, wished the Romanian people success in their goal and greater progress and prosperity. Mr Gujral's statement was received by the members with thumping of desks.

The minister offered India's support and cooperation to the Romanian people in rebuilding their economy. He said the Government of India has already offered urgently needed medical and humanitarian relief assistance.

Referring to the developments in Romania, Mr Gujral expressed India's firm condemnation of the massacre of innocent Romanian citizens, including children, by the Ceausescu regime. He said the Romanian people have paid a heavy price for attaining their freedom and democratic rights. India salutes their fearless bravery and sacrifice, he added.

Doctor Kidnapped in Punjab; Total Rises to 5

BK2712132689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Text] The Andhra Pradesh chief minister, Dr Chenna Reddy, has offered to have talks with like-minded people to secure the release of the two kidnapped MLA's [members of legislative assembly] and two mandal praja parishad [local administrative bodies] presidents. At a news conference in Hyderabad today, Dr Reddy appealed to the Naxalites [Maoist guerrillas] to release the four kidnapped persons. He said there has been general resentment against their action among all sections of the people, and there are legal procedures available to the under-trial prisoners for relief. He refuted the charge that the government is inactive in saving the lives of the kidnapped persons, and said it is handling the sensitive issue as carefully as possible.

Dr Reddy said the government considers the Naxalite problem as a serious one, and a subcommittee has been formed to find the solution.

In Punjab, a noted cardiologist, Dr Ved Gupta, was kidnapped from his residence in Amritsar yesterday evening. According to the police, four terrorists went to the doctor's residence and asked him to accompany them to operate on one of their colleagues wounded in an encounter with the police.

Members in both the houses of parliament today expressed concern over the kidnapping of two MLA's in Andhra Pradesh by Naxalites. Raising the issue through a special mention in the Rajya Sabha, Dr M. Timuthi Reddy, Telugu Desam, blamed the state government for its inaction. He demanded that the state government as well as the center should take immediate steps to secure the release of the kidnapped MLA's.

The Congress-I members, however, opposed the allegations against the state government of not taking immediate action. The vice chairman, Mr B.A. Sen Reddy, joined the members in an appeal to the Naxalites to release the two MLA's immediately. In the Lok Sabha, Mr P. Chidamabaram, Congress-I, raised the issue during zero hour. He referred to the kidnapping of the two MLA's in Andhra Pradesh and the kidnapping of the prominent doctor in Punjab.

Kidnapped Doctor Released

BK2712160289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Text] In Punjab, a noted cardiologist, Dr Ved Gupta, who was kidnapped from his residence in Amritsar by terrorists yesterday evening, has been freed.

As already reported, four terrorists kidnapped the doctor to attend one of their colleagues wounded in an encounter with the police.

Kidnapped Legislator Released in Andhra Pradesh

BK2812010689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0035 GMT 28 Dec 89

[Text] In Andhra Pradesh, the Telugu Desam MLA [member of legislative assembly], Mr Venkateshwar Rao, who was kidnapped by Naxalites [Maoist guerrillas] was released yesterday evening. According to the superintendent of police, Nizamabad District, the release came after negotiations with the kidnappers.

The whereabouts of the Congress-I MLA and the two Mandal Praja Parishad [local administration bodies] presidents, who were also kidnapped, are still not known. The state chief minister, Dr Chenna Reddy, expressing happiness over the release of Mr Venkateshwara Rao, said this is the beginning for a new chapter for peace and stability in the society.

It may be recalled that the MLA was kidnapped from Ramaduggu village from Nizamabad District last Saturday.

2 Bombs Explode in Srinagar; Advocate Shot Dead

BK2712155389 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, one advocate was shot dead by some unidentified men in Anantnag town this afternoon. An official spokesman told AIR [All India Radio] Srinagar correspondent that the advocate was shot at close range and was immediately removed to the hospital where he was declared dead.

In Srinagar, two bomb blasts caused minor damage to a cinema hall and Tagore Hall, the main center meant for cultural activities.

'Big Combing Operation' Begun in Jammu, Kashmir

BK2612162289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 26 Dec 89

[Text] The home minister, Mufti Muhammad Sayeed, has said that the security forces have launched a big combing operation in Jammu and Kashmir to flush out the terrorists. He was replying to the calling-attention motion in the Rajya Sabha today moved by Mr M.C. Bhandare, Congress-I, and others on the current situation in Jammu and Kashmir. He said the government will consider the proposal to call an all-party meeting on Jammu and Kashmir.

During the discussion, members from both sides expressed serious concern over the deteriorating situation in Jammu and Kashmir. There were suggestions that the government should take up the matter with Pakistan so as to prevent any outside interference in India's internal affairs.

Finance Minister Discusses Rupee Depreciation

BK2812093089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 28 Dec 89

[Text] The government plans to take a number of measures to curtail deficit financing. These will include cutting down wasteful expenditure and increasing production and productivity.

Stating this in the Rajya Sabha today, the finance minister, Professor Madhu Dandavate, said that there has been depreciation in the rupee value as compared to major international currencies in the last few years. He said it is, however, not possible to precisely measure the impact of depreciation of the rupee on domestic inflation.

Answering a question, Professor Dandavate said the government is not thinking of applying for any loan from the International Monetary Fund.

Scientists Develop Agni Missile Technology

BK2512092489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 25 Dec 89

[Text] The Indian defense scientists have developed a new technology that helps fabricate the country's recently tested intermediate-range ballistic missile, Agni. The new technology has been developed for the first time in the country with an indigenous design at the Defense Research Development Laboratory. The technology will meet the requirements of the country's aerospace industry for composite materials, providing stringent thermal, mechanical, and sectional features.

Pakistani High Commissioner Presents Credentials

BK2612111589 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 26 Dec 89

[Text] The new Pakistani high commissioner to India, Mr Bashir Khan Babar, presented his credentials to the Indian president, Mr Venkataraman, in New Delhi today. Welcoming the envoy, the Indian president said his country is firmly committed to establishment of cooperative and good-neighborly relations with Pakistan.

The Pakistani high commissioner conveyed warm greetings from the president, the prime minister, and the people of Pakistan to the Government and people of India.

Iran

Khamene'i Speech on East Europe, Panama

LD2712145389 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Speech by Ayatollah Khamene'i at meeting with the Hezbollah ummah in Tehran on 27 December—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [passage omitted] The issue I want to talk to you about concerns the events taking place in the world. These events are rare and have a determining role on the conditions in world and on history. These give us cause to stop and think, as well as being a cause for happiness in some were for us. Such events also provide a lesson for the world's nations and governments.

Two important events happened very recently. One concerns events in Eastern Europe, the other the U.S. military attack on a small country which is its neighbor. Each of these events deserves profound attention and consideration.

The events in Eastern Europe, the last of which occurred in Romania, began a few months ago, when the Marxist regimes of the communist countries of Eastern Europe fell, one after the other, and where the communist parties are being swept aside. Those governments who ruled people in the name of socialism and communism have been toppled either by bloodshed or street demonstrations—in any case by the people—and the foundations which had been created over scores of years, and which had cost a great deal of money, weapons, and diplomacy for their expansion and embellishment, fell within the course of a few weeks. We are talking about the foundations of Marxism, communism, and communist regimes in Eastern Europe, and the reprecussions of such events in other parts of the world. This is a very important issue.

In our revolution, we understood a number of principles from the outset. It was Islam who taught us those principles, and our wise, great, and esteemed imam repeatedly told us about them in many forms and languages. One of those principles was that any system not built upon a popular basis cannot survive. It is the people who can create a system and then safeguard it, even if all powers show antagonism torward it. If a system is not popular, if it is not based on people and their feelings, will, and beliefs, then such a system cannot survive. This was one of our principles, and this topic was constantly repeated.

Another principle was that the imposition of an ideology or a social order on the people cannot be successful, especially when such an idea or thought is not harmonious with and coherent to with people's religious ideas. This constitutes one of our Islamic and ideological principles. What eventually remains is people's heartfelt beliefs and their religious faith. Today, such facts are being proven on the scene of reality. Marxist regimes in Eastern Europe were imposed on the people against their will. Through money, coercion, tanks, and the intervention of a foreign power, a system and an idea was imposed on the people of Eastern Europe, that is Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, and the others. For 40 or 50 years such regimes were maintained with utmost precision and superficial power. However, as the foundations were shaky and uncertain, such systems could not survive, and when one brick was pulled out of the foundation, when a fundamental blow was dealt to them, those regimes began falling apart one after the other. And if there were leaders who were stubborn and resisted, they were dealt with severely, as you witnessed during the last few days in Romania. In the face of bullying and suppression, the people did not retreat because their time had come. Instead, the bullies were forced to retreat.

The people are the most important thing. Any system which is not based on the people's will and beliefs will meet that same fate. The tyrants of the world, dictators, people who rule nations with swords and truncheons must open their eyes and learn a lesson. Let the people who maintain regimes on the basis of bayonets and repression, against the will of the people, see the fate of Eastern Europe. The iron grip of systems in communist countries was such that they could not imagine that they could possibly fall one day. They did fall.

Of course, we have also seen other examples. An example of a different kind was the former oppressive monarchic Pahlavi regime in this very country. With our own hands....[changes thought] we saw with our own eyes as our nation crushed that regime with its own hands.

In those countries, there was opposition to religion. Religious people, whether Muslim or Christian, were brought under pressure. The people's religious belief was repressed for decades. We saw and they saw, however, that fighting religion and the people's religious belief does not succeed. Religious belief and faith will finally raise its head from beneath the rubble; it will impose itself on its opponents; that is what happened. That is the first point.

Let the world's tyrants learn a lesson then! Let those who rule nations by force and who think the nation counts for nothing learn a lesson! Let those who fight religion and who fight the people's religious beliefs anywhere in the world learn a lesson! These are lessons which must be learned. Islam and the Koran commands us all to learn our lesson.

Now the second issue which concerns the U.S. military invasion of a small country which is placed in a sensitive location and in which the arrogant U.S. has interests; they invaded. The United States simply brought its tanks, its aircraft, its troops into another country. It is an amazing event. It is astounding. Of course, it is not the first time that the U.S. Administration has done such a thing. The point I want to raise in this connection—in fact there are two points—is first, there is an Islamic issue. When we say global arrogance, when we say Islam is opposed to arrogance, this invasion is what we mean by arrogance. Arrogance means that a government, a power, an individual with the bullying force which he possesses, sees a way to impose force anywhere he likes. This is the meaning of arrogance: applying pressure and inflicting blows on any nation at will without feeling shame, taking the property of any nation at will without feeling shame, doing the ugliest deeds, giving the most beautiful names to the ugly deeds it has committed, and not feeling shame. This is arrogance. Arrogance means bullying; it means acting tough; it means killing people without shame or remorse; it means aggression combined with shamelessness and self-satisfaction. This is arrogance.

The world order today, the system which the strong powers of the world have today, is the system of arrogance. The United States enters another country, fights the people of that country; the people fought the United States; it was not a matter of this or that person. It was the people who did not want the United States to enter their country, to wreck their country, to bring tanks and armored personnel carriers into the streets in front of their shops, their schools, their homes, to bring foreign troops.

On the other hand, the British Government and this or that government give support, and another lot sit and watch and remain silent. This is the world order of arrogance today, the system of domination.

The Nonaligned Movement held a conference in which we participated several years ago, and in the United Nations several years ago we said the same thing to the people of the world. We said: People of the world! Leaders of the world! Today the system of domination rules the world. The system of domination means that someone in the world bullies, using bayonets and force, feels no shame; and others put up with his bullying. This is the system of domination, and today you can see an example of it.

The current U.S. President—despite the gentle face which he put on in the beginning, pretending that he was opposed to Reagan's policy—has revealed that he is the brother of his predecessor and that there is no difference between them. The policy is the same, that arrogance is the way it is and cannot be any other way. Reagan attacked Grenada in the first few years of his presidency. He overthrew that government. This president is just the same.

It is with that same attitude that they kept the shah's regime on its feet in Iran for about 25 years. They carried out a coup d'etat here; they overthrew a government, and brought the shah to power in 1953. They supported the shah for 25 years in this country—those same people, with that same attitude.

It is those same people who are supporting the world's reactionary and dictatorial systems today against the people of those countries. It is those same people who brought the Zionists to Palestine, planted them there, took a country from its nation, and installed a usurper. The United States has constantly supported the Israeli Government during the past 40 years. They are the same people. That is the system of domination.

The greatest of afflictions for the nations of the world today is that very same system of domination. It is more dangerous than cholera or the plague. It is more dangerous than the worst disease that nations should not have control in their own country and their own home. I must say with the profoundest regret that every government which is governing in various countries in the world—there are some which have a popular aspect to some extent; they are either not dependent or they are not dependent to that extent—is silent in the face of a crime of this magnitude, a calamity of this magnitude.

Of course, nations in this or that corner demonstrate and march. You saw there were some demonstrations during these past few days against the U.S. action. However, they are limited; they are in this or that corner. The movement which must occur does not occur. [crowd chants "Death to America"]

Well, we must learn from this event to help realize our revolution's objectives. We must learn a lesson. This is the arrogance against which you, the nation of Iran, rose and continued to fight against for 11 years since the victory of the revolution. Perhaps one could say that so far, the blow you inflicted on arrogance, headed by America, has been the strongest. No other country had inflicted such a blow. Our nation stood against this arrogant mentality, and how powerfully it stood; and the United States, with this arrogant mentality, employed all its efforts in order to bring the Iranian nation to its knees and to force it to retreat; but despite its desire and wish, our nation, our government, our revolution, and the system of the Islamic Republic became stronger and more stable daily. In this confrontation, global arrogance was defeated in the face of a popular and Islamic revolution.

I would like to say, first, that our nation should know—and thanks be to God they know—that we have chosen the right path by refusing to compromise with the Satan of arrogance for even one moment. This is the nature of the enemy against whom our people chant the death slogan. It is an impudent bully, an aggressor, and does not refrain from intervention and violation wherever it can. They give it a nice name too: defense of democracy and human rights. Even the most gullible people should not believe such words today, and they would not believe. Our nation has chosen the right path. We shall continue this path. We, with divine succor and by relying on God, through the steadfastness and solidarity of our nation and through other nations' solidarity with our revolution, shall not for one moment compromise with America and its bullying in the future either, the same as in the past.

The second point is this: It is our path which shall reach fruition and victory, not the path of America. America's bullying will be broken. The horn and teeth of this savage and inconsiderate beast, which has no regard for anything, will fall off. Nations of the world are watching Eastern Europe today. The same Czechoslovakia that you saw last week—you saw how its nation marched in the streets and discarded the high-ranking individuals who were ruling over them, to bring to power those who they wanted. It is the same nation which, 20 or 21 years ago, witnessed in the same country of Czechoslovakia the Soviet tanks, the Soviet personnel carriers, and the allies of the Soviet Union entering the capital of Czechoslovakia from every direction. They deposed the head of government, and anyone who defended him was killed. There was a bloody war. They crushed the people in a bloody manner and then left.

It is the same as what the United States is doing in Panama today. These are not new deeds. Those in the world who are arrogant have always done these things and will continue to do so as long as they have the power. The Soviet Union, during the era of its dictatorial governments, inflicted the same things on the East European countries, in Poland, Hungary, and Czechoslovakia. Today the same countries, which invaded the streets of Czechoslovakia with their tanks, are apologizing to the nation of Czechoslovakia; they send messages saying: Please forgive us, we made a mistake 20 years ago when we came.

Can the U.S. statesmen of today claim that 20 years from now the United States would not be compelled to apologize to Panama, Grenada, Iran, occupied Palestine, and dozens of other nations who have been wounded by the United States? Is it not likely that those in charge of the U.S. policy today, by relying on power, foolishly resort to what brigands and old-time bullying vigilantes used to do, when they were forcing their ideas by wielding knives—that those who are carrying out these deeds in America today are certain that several years later the nation would not curse them, their names or their graves, and would not kick their graves? They should not be so sure.

What eventually prevails is the will of the nations. The one whose nose will be rubbed in the dirt—provided the nations show courage and will—is the tyrant. If the nations so decide, they can succeed in overthrowing the tyrants.

Our dear nation must be alert to the fact that the scene in which they are present—a scene in which our nation today is present at its forward lines against the global arrogance—is a very blessed scene. You are to be the pioneer and pathfinders of the nations of the world. World nations will learn from you; indeed they have learned from you already. At this very moment the prescription which we witness today in the world is the same one which took place in Iran: to come to the streets to stand against the ruling powers armed only with one's body and soul is the prescription which the Iranian revolution prescribed. Such a feat was unique in the world; it did not have a precedent. That was the lesson which you taught to the world. The nations will continue to learn from you.

Of course, our nation today must pay attention to two points: One is the unanimity of words and the other is the effort to build the country. The nation must not forget these two points. If these two were taken away—God forbid—then authority and power will also be taken away.

You must maintain unity lest here and there some may forget that in what conditions today the world exists and that who is our nation and where it stands. Lest they may begin to reiterate the same divisive statements and moves which a few years ago used to be prevalant and which, thank God, these latter days have been removed. Lest they begin to return them to the scene.

And then the second point is that of making efforts. Everybody must make efforts—the government and the nation. Each single government department must embark on the proper effort which is due of it. Thanks be to God, they do make efforts. I am a witness to this fact. [passage omitted]

On the foreign scene there must be intelligent confrontation with the poisonous policies and propaganda of the enemy. Foreign Ministry officials as well as officials of the foreign policy are charged with that mission. It is very delicate and sensitive work. Thanks be to God, they are performing that duty well. Though here and there some individuals, grasping every pretext, resort to the smallest incidents to create a noise and raise objections. Well, it is very easy to find fault; what is difficult is to put in the work. He who works and is on the scene must be supported if he is to work well and to correct any possible mistake.

To follow our great imam, I strongly oppose the weakening of the outfits which shoulder sensitive duties, including the outfit handling our foreign affairs and those who are positioned at the forward positions of foreign policy confrontation.

What kind of ugly habit is it to overlook completely some positive points and yet to raise objections from everywhere the moment a negative point is seen—politics-wise, media-wise, and so on and so forth? Is it possible for us to allow the officials in charge of the country's diplomacy to come under fire from irresponsible individuals at a time when we are faced with all arrogant and aggressive policies on the diplomatic scene? We shall not let it be so.

You see how foreign policies in the world are handled. You see that at the Security Council the condemnation of the United States for going to Panama—the resolution—is vetoed. That is how world politics works today. In facing these policies the Islamic Republic must combine power with delicacy and intelligence. We have sent several individuals forward to the firing line of diplomacy: We have told them to go to the Foreign Ministry as Minister of Foreign Affairs and as officials in responsible positions to work. They are making efforts and are doing so well. They work with strength. They are victorious in many fields; they conquer. Then somewhere there is a fault—which stems from the nature of human beings. As soon as the fault is seen suddenly irresponsible individuals raise their voices, oblivious to the fact that we are engaged in fighting. The soldiers fighting in forward positions must not be attacked.

Why do some people fail to understand this point? All the outfits must work well; and all the people must help the outfits. Today the banner of Islam is in your hands. The nation and the government must preserve that banner. The banner cannot be preserved if you engage in struggle and rows among yourselves. The responsibility rests on the shoulders of all of you. You all must preserve you unity, unanimity of hearts, cooperation, and good will. It is your duty to do so. I must say that the way you people, soldiers of the revolution and the various strata are going forward so decisively and with faith and with God's blessing, then no power in the world can stand against you.

President Backs Khamene'i on Foreign Policy

LD2712173789 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Text] The cabinet met this afternoon under the chairmanship of Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the president of the Republic.

In his remarks at the meeting referring to the statement of the exalted leader today, the president of the Republic said: His eminence always explains the important topics and the policies of the revolution and the country. And he usually generously supports the government, the ministers, and the officials of the country. We have always had good and valuable support from him. Of course, that is what we expect of him because in practice, we are enforcers of the policies which he devises, and because of our knowledge of his thoughts we deem it our duty to carry out his demands, demands of one who has vice-regency [velayat] over us and the people.

As to the important issues of the country, we usually seek his presence. We then engage in consultation and seek his views. If an affair is not in accordance with his view then it will not be carried out, unless some negligence takes place. Now, yet again he has expressed confidence and assurance in both the policies and their implementation.

The president of the Republic added: Another point which the leader emphasized was his support for the policy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Of course we already knew it; and in the past, also, his holiness the imam of the ummah, may his soul be admitted to God's paradise, adopted that very same position: supporting the policy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the relevant minister.

Referring to the expression of satisfaction by the exalted leader for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: Unfortunately, because of points which were seen during the past 2 or 3 days, some individuals have somewhat broken his heart. We are sorry for that; we do not like to see those who are aware of the views of the exalted leader engaging in a a move against his views. The gentlemen are themselves aware that the legitimacy of the status which they have in the government, the Majles, the press and the media stems from the leadership. Now when they are aware of the views of the leader then propriety demands that such events should not take place—to injure the feelings of the leader by blaming somebody.

The president added: We hope the fatherly reprimand which was heard today will be the last of such affairs. Henceforth, everybody must take care to move within the limtis of the views of the leadership and not impair the unity and solidarity of society, the revolution, and the revolutionary forces through remarks which are not in the interests of the country. The media, the Majles, the members of the cabinet, and the personnel of the ministries all agree that the basis and foundation of our move in the Islamic regime is the guardianship of the jurisconsult [velayat-e faqih]; we all agree that the legitimacy of our work stems from the presence of the jurisconsult and his endorsement. We regard the exalted leader of the revolution to be the sincere disciple of his holiness the imam from whom he has received his tuition. We are aware that he will not remain silent where the important issues of the country are concerned. Where he finds the interest of the revolution to be involved, he will not allow anybody to impair the policy of the regime; that is, he has the same spirit which his holiness the imam had. We take pride in such a situation; we hope that, God willing, henceforth we shall not have any scenes that may lead to reprimands by the exalted leader.

At the same session, meanwhile, the report on the progress of work on the Majles debate concerning the 5-year economic, social, and cultural plan was discussed. The president said: The government sincerely thanks the Majles for its fine handling of the government bill on the plan. The honorable deputies who have talked against the bill have, in fact, helped the work of the government, the Majles, and the people, because in this way they helped the issues to be thrashed out for the people. As a result, the Majles has arrived at a decision through full knowledge which is a valuable support for the government.

In continuation of the cabinet meeting today, the report on air pollution in Tehran was submitted to the cabinet. The government stressed the need for speeding up the project to equip cars with natural gas engines as well as completion of a metro sustem for Tehran, measures which can solve the air pollution problem of Tehran to some degree. The cabinet also expressed appreciation for the day and night activities of the personnel of the metro.

Velayati Calls for Nonaligned Movement Session

NC2712101989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Text] Last night Iran's foreign minister sent a message to (Jan Brunoshek), president of the Nonaligned Movement, calling for the convocation of an extraordinary session of the nonaligned countries to assess ways and means to safeguard international rights and to combat aggression by greater powers.

Mr Velayati stressed in his message that the direct and dastardly aggression against Panama, an active member of the Nonaligned Movement, has proven that the nonaligned countries cannot defend their rights without resistance, solidarity, and unity. Our country's foreign minister recalled that the international community has not attained the priceless inheritance of international rights and the trend toward peace and security very easily, and that it will not permit the domineering powers to trample them at whim.

Mr Velayati added: This mission is on the shoulders of the Nonaligned Movement. It should muster all its efforts to resolve international crises by means of motivating all members of the international community to strive to defend international rights. The Islamic Republic of Iran's foreign minister stressed that we should not permit the Nonaligned Movement to be overly optimistic about the international situation and to forget certain instruments to combat aggression by the greater powers.

He continued: The movement should not give the world the impression that when one of the nonaligned countries is in the clutches of a superpower, this movement is unable to take a decisive stance. He stressed: The U.S. military intervention in Panama is, in fact, a serious threat to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries which belong to the Nonaligned Movement.

Envoy's Recall From Romania May Not End Dispute

LD2712233689 Tehran in English to Europe 1950 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Text] In an announcement issued yesterday the Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran announced that the Islamic Republic of Iran's ambassador Mr Jamshid Gohari was recalled from Bucharest as a reprimand.

Failure to dispatch precise reports on the situation in Romania has been cited as the reason for the said reprimand. As a result of inattentiveness of Mr Gohari and Tehran's failure to gain timely information about the situation in Romania, during the last days of his rule, Nicolae Ceausescu officially visited Iran for a period of 2 days.

Of course, as soon as the former Romanian president arrived in Iran, Tehran was informed about the critical situation in Romania. But in any case, since Mr Ceausescu was a guest on an official visit to Iran, it was against the diplomatic norms to return him from the airport.

Despite this, the protocol officials did not receive him duly; and in practice, the Islamic Republic's mass media treated the reports related to his visit with little significance.

Soon after the head of the Romanian government arrived in Tehran, one of the members of the Islamic Consultative Assembly's Foreign Relations Committee sharply criticized Mr Ceausescu, commenting that he already visited Iran during the reign of the defunct shah and had maintained relations with Israel.

In spite of the Romanian delegation's insistence, leader of the islamic revolution, Ayatollah Khamene'i refused to receive the Romanian president. And the meetings of the troublesome guest were arranged in such a matter that he would leave the country as soon as possible.

as soon as the Romanian delegation left Tehran, daily ETTELA'AT and JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI started criticizing the officials of the Islamic Republic Foreign Ministry. These sharp criticisms came at a time when Ceausescu was still in power. As soon as detailed information on Romania's internal massacres reached the Islamic Consultative Assembly the deputies criticized more vigorously the Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran for being uninformed about the situation in Romania and finally Foreign Minister Velayati was called to the Foreign Relations Committee and was questioned about the situation in Romania.

In any case, it is unlikely that the explanations offered by the foreign minister have convinced the Islamic Consultative Assembly and the Iranian people. The foreign minister who was well aware that the mistake of Iran's ambassador to Romania and other Foreign Ministry officials has not been a deliberate mistake and is one of the rare diplomatic mistakes of the Islamic Republic during the years after the victory of the Islamic revolution, in order to correct this unacceptable performance, recalled Iran's ambassador to Romania as a reprimand.

Along with this, as a timely measure the Islamic Iran recognized the will of the Romanian nation in changing their system of government and since the Islamic Republic of Iran's policy is to respect justice and democracy, the Foreign Ministry announced that it will continue its relations at a high level with the tyrannized Romanian nation and has informed the Romanian ambassador, who has declared his loyalty to the new Romanian government, that the Red Crescent of Islamic Republic of Iran is prepared to dispatch medical and other aids to Romania.

Despite all this, it does not appear that the dismissal of Iran's ambassador by itself can end the controversy and the foreign minister is expected to either initiate further changes in the Foreign Ministry or to be called to the Majles for presenting convincing explanations to the representatives.

During the past 10 years the Islamic revolution has demonstrated that it is the contender of the tyrannized people and the enemy of the tyrants. And the people in the Islamic world, and especially the tyrannized people of East Europe, whose backs have been bent for decades under the scourge of the communist dictators, know better than everybody else that the philosophy of the revolution of Islamic Iran is based on opposing the dictators and supporting the deprived people.

Commentary Compares Romanian Situation With Iran

TA2512124889 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Dec 89

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] Nicolae Ceausescu, the dear guest and teacher of the Islamic Republic's leaders, was finally toppled. Last Saturday he was in Tehran making an official visit o Khomeyni's grave. At that very time his guards, which n Romania are called Securitate, were firing on the people in Timisoara. From that Saturday until this Saturday, in less than 1 week, Nicolae Ceausescu was overthrown and escaped after a dictatorship lasting 24 years. If in the world there was one person who mainained iron rule in his country, it was Ceausescu. [passage omitted]

To his hosts in the Islamic Republic Ceausescu was an deal model. The Islamic Republic's leaders hoped to earn a lesson from him in suppression and the ability to tay in power. The grounds for holding onto power and ntimidating the people were never as fertile in the slamic Republic as they were in Romania. The wish for elf-preservation at any price is very strong in the Islamic Republic. The forces at the disposal of the Islamic Republic have still not faced a test like the demonstraions in Timisoara, Bucharest, and other Romanian ities.

At the initial stages, Ceausescu's Army in Romania sent anks against the people and mowed them down, but the Romanian soldiers and guards soon rebelled. This is omething that will be repeated in our Iran, too. The omparison between Romania and the Islamic Republic s endless. The day is not far off when the Islamic Republic's regime will face the same fate as that of Ceausescu's dictatorial regime.

Let us not forget that the guards on which the regime is ounting to preserve itself are, above all, Iranians, and hat they see and deplore the problems and difficulties which the Islamic Republic has imposed on the Iranian ation—their brothers, sisters, and relatives. The guards will definitely not fire on the people when they stage heir mass uprising against the Islamic Republic's egime. They will join the nation's rank.

Commentary Sees Challenge to U.S. 'Arrogance'

NC2112201489 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 21 Dec 89

[Station political commentary]

[Text] No one was surprised by the news of the aggressive military attack carried out by the United States against Panama. Preparations for such an attack have been going on for a long time and were noticeably intensified shortly before the attack, when the infamous U.S. intelligence provoked the incident in which a U.S. officer was murdered in Panama early this week.

No one also was surprised by the new U.S. act of aggression because the attitude of arrogance governing U.S. conduct is well known. The White House sees all countries as states under its control which must obey its orders and put its interests above their own. In addition, the peoples of these countries must submit to its policies and have no right to protest even if U.S. troops invade their territory to capture one of their presidents who was defying the White House. These are the general traits of the U.S. terrorist tendency that has set off fires around the world and has become one of the most prominent features of the political reality in today's world.

However, another equally striking phenomenon has imposed itself on this unjust reality and has, likewise, become a prominent feature of today's world, representing a brighter image of the world and giving rise to hope. This phenomenon is the appearance of a front presenting a firm challenge to the U.S. terrorist tendency, the U.S. attempts to impose its authority around the world, and the unjust equations governing U.S. policy. The nucleus of this lofty phenomenon was embodied in the Islamic revolution, which led Iran out of the U.S. terrorist sphere of influence and established a divine state that defied and humiliated America in the form of its abominable den of spies, which was known as the U.S. Embassy in Tehran. For a full decade, the new state foiled all U.S. conspiracies to bring Iran back into the sphere of its authoritarian influence and, more dangerously, invoked a spirit of disobedience to the bidding of arrogance around the world and gave birth to a new current that is leading the battles of defiance against this unjust bidding with triumphant vigor. This current is continuously gaining power, despite all kinds of terrorism, repression, and counterconspiracies, thereby confirming the soundness of the important truth revived by the Iranian revolution, to the shame of a subservient government; namely, that defiance of America and its like and breaking loose from the sphere of its unjust equations is possible, very possible. Furthermore, no power can impose its unjust will on any people striving for their liberation and salvation.

KAYHAN Cited on U.S. Operations in Panama

LD2612183289 Tehran IRNA in English 1605 GMT 26 Dec 89

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 26, IRNA—Washington will not be the ultimate winner in Panama, said a Persian daily today, noting that the calls of protest of the Panamanians, 'are a lot louder' than what the United States publishes in the print and broadcast media to justify its invasion.

KAYHAN said in relation with Washington's propaganda devices for legitimizing its military operations: 'Invitation to U.S. mediamen by the White House following the attack against tiny Panama is done for manipulating the American public opinion, and for misleading global forums.'

The counteractions against such operations here and there, said KAYHAN, is evidence of the American scheme, and 'the blood being shed in Panama now attests to the truth of the American victory?'

Washington's concern for protecting its prestige necessitated its checking of all movements in all countries for independence. This policy of the U.S. may well entail its efforts for perpetuating the supercilious policies of the United States in the region.

'Nonetheless what is happening in Panama today simply serves to precipitate the eventual fall of the White House. The occupation of Panama will not be considered a victory for the United States. The calls for help of the people of Latin America is far louder than the propaganda of the West, and the resistance of men and women in Panama will for ever remain in the memory of all,' KAYHAN concluded.

Tehran Radio Comments on Hezbollah-Amal Accord

LD2412151189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1107 GMT 24 Dec 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] Following submission of the message of the leader of the Islamic Revolution to the Amal and Hezbollah authorities in Damascus, the bloody clashes between the two Shi'ite oraganizations of Lebanon were stopped last night for a short time.

Our country's first deputy foreign minister, who left for Syria yesterday for that purpose, also carried a message from the president to Hafiz al-Asad.

The message from His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i to the leaders of Hezbollah and Amal asks they end the clashes immediately through discussions and understanding.

After receiving the leader's message, one of the Hezbollah leaders condemned the clashes, and announced that in the present situation, one should point to the dangers threatening Lebanon from inside and outside.

In a worthy action last night, Lebanese Hezbollah ordered its forces to observe a unilateral cease-fire in their wars against Amal, and according to initial reports, the cease-fire was observed for a short time, but heavy battles resumed, which caused many casualties and a great deal of damage.

Despite escalation of the clashes, it is hoped the Hezbollah and Amal leaders will resolve their differences through talks and discussions.

The previous clashes between Hezbollah and Amal have shown the damage caused by the clashes affects Lebanese Muslim society.

During the 10-month-old clashes, which finally ended with the signing of the Damascus agreement, hundreds of civilians from both sides were killed or injured. Those clashes did not have any decisive role in resolving the problems.

But when the leaders of the two forces gathered in Damascus for a meeting attended by the Iranian and Syrian foreign ministers, they signed an agreement that was a good basis for [words indistinct].

The Damascus agreement shows that the most correct way of resolving the differences is through talks and discussions. Both sides agreed to the accord, which was set up in eight paragraphs, in the presence of the Iranian and Syrian foreign ministers. One of the outstanding points in the agreement is the accounting for activities of the two movements in southern Lebanon.

The third paragraph of the Damascus agreement says a chamber of joint action will be established in southern Lebanon to control the coordination and expansion of resistance activities against Israel, and at the same time, both movements are able to act independently in that region. The agreement, which resolves the previous differences, also offers some appropriate solutions which, in practice, have brought satisfaction to Hezbollah and Amal leaders. The Damascus agreement therefore lies within a legal and accepted framework, and the resolution of the present differences through discussion and understanding is not difficult.

There is no doubt both Hezbollah and Amal have their own reasons and explanations for their recent clashes, but the important point is priority should be given to understanding and cooperation for strengthening the spirit of solidarity in the Muslim society of Lebanon, which is under heavy political, economic, and military attack by arrogance and the reactionaries. The Muslim society of Lebanon today needs unity and solidarity, and the establishment and strengthening of this is the holy aim of the leader of the Islamic Revolution of Iran and the political authorities of our country. That also is the mission our country's first deputy foreign minister continued today in Damascus.

Commentary on Soviet Occupation of Afghanistan

NC2712114189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Central News Unit Research Group commentary]

[Excerpts] In the name of God. Today is 6 of Dey, 1368 [27 December 1989] which coincides with the anniversary of the Soviet military onslaught on Afghanistan. [passage omitted]

During the course of this occupation and until the last soldier of the aggressor and the enemy of the Afghan nation had departed from this land, the Soviet soldiers suffered approximately 50,000 casualties. Of these, 13,310 are believed dead. The Muslim Afghan revolutionaries say that the Soviet casualties during the occupation are far more than what they have divulged. [passage omitted]

The 9 years of occupying Afghanistan with its concomitant irreparable damage on the effete Soviet economy was a suitable opportunity for the United States to allay its domineering urge by committing aggression in various parts of the world. In view of Moscow's condition, the U.S. plot to consolidate its position in this strategic part of the world is becoming concrete.

Western imperialism, spearheaded by the United States, uses the aggression toward and occupation of Afghanistan by the Soviet Union as its main pretext for justifying its objectives of aggression. It also strives to capitalize on the Soviet Union's shadowy presence in Afghanistan, based on its support of the Kabul regime.

Seen from this viewpoint, the United States has been gradually successful in hatching new plots against the Afghan people and the mujahidin. Now the most important phase of this overt plot has been implemented, aided and abetted by the region's reactionaries. Creating discord among the Afghan groups bodes an unpredictable future for Afghanistan and is the result of the plot being enthusiastically pursued by the United States. [passage omitted]

There is no doubt that the Afghan nation—in view of its 9 years of experience of having its country usurped by the Soviet Union and more than 10 years of embroilment with the imposed Marxist regime—will not permit history to repeat itself and to allow the influence the domineering powers of the world to continue in their country.

Foreign Minister Receives Turkish Official

LD2712131489 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Text] Mr Hoseyin Celem, the Turkish deputy Foreign Minister [title as heard], who is visiting Tehran, this morning met Mr Velayati, the foreign minister. According to the Central News Unit, discussions were conducted on ways to further expand and strengthen ties between Iran and Turkey. The need was stressed for reinforcement and increased activity of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), comprising Iran, Turkey, and Pakistan, for the sake of increased cooperation between these three important countries of the Islamic world.

Based on the report, Mr Celem conveyed the invitation of Mr Turgut Ozal, the Turkish president, for Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the president, to pay an official visit to Turkey.

'Common Market' Inaugurated at Iran-Turkey Border

LD2612181889 Tehran IRNA in English 1644 GMT 21 Dec 89

[Text] Ankara, Dec. 25, IRNA—A common market with an area of 5,000 sq. meters was inaugurated at the Iran-Turkey border today to boost border trade exchanges, announced the governor general of the Turkish Aghri Province.

Turkish media quoted the governor general as saying that part of the joint market lies inside Turkey and part of it inside Iran. The market would help promote the economy of the two countries' border provinces, it said.

Basic goods such as construction materials, electrical appliances, clothing and foodstuff are on sale at the market, while selling of alcoholic drinks, video flims, gambling instruments as well as arms and ammunition is strictly banned, he said.

The first open market for Iranian and Turkish merchants and border residents was opened at 10 different spots bordering Turkey's Van Province last July.

Iran and Turkey inked a protocol last March for promoting border trade exchanges.

Meanwhile, Iran and Pakistan have also agreed to set up a common market on their joint border in Sistan-Baluchestan Province.

Kurdish Situation Said Worse Than Under Shah

AU2012152889 Vienna DIE PRESSE in German 20 Dec 89 p 2

["Kro" report: "Internecine War Against Kurds"]

[Text] Vienna—Despite the armistice with Iraq and the death of Khomeyni, the situation of the Kurds in Iran is now worse than during the days of the shah. This was declared by Jalil Gadan [spelling as published], secretary general of the "Kurdish Democratic Party—Revolutionary Leadership," at a news conference in Vienna. Some 250,000 men from the Iranian Armed Forces are now stationed on Kurdish territory and are waging a virtual internecine war against the Kurdish people. Gadan places great hopes in the visit of a UN Human Rights Commission to Iran next January. Gadan, whose party is a splinter group of the one led by Kurdish leader Qasemlu, who was murdered in Vienna, criticized the Austrian authorities because to date they have failed to clear up the murder of last June.

Daily on Iraqi 'Contradictions' in Peace Quest

LD1412133189 Tehran IRNA in English 0956 GMT 14 Dec 89

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 14, IRNA—The Persian Daily JOMHURI-YE ISLAMI said in an commentary Thursday that the Iraqi Government is offering contradictory claims in its publicity campaigns at home and abroad.

It said on Tuesday Iraq's permanent representative at the United Nations Ismat T. Kittani had said that the Iraqi Government would shortly dismiss five armies of its ground force in anticipation of settlement of its disputes with Iran. However, the daily observed, only two days before that a deputy prime minister of the Ba'th Government in Baghdad had said that as long as peace is not established at the war fronts Iraq would continue to bolster her Army and that the Iraqi Government had allocated a large budget for military spending.

The daily said the contradictory and almost simultaneous statements by two ranking officals of Iraq on same topic is good evidence that the Iraqi regime is not bona fide in her alleged concern for peace.

JONHURI-YE ISLAMI said: "The actual operations of Iraq tend to confirm the statements of the deputy foreign minister of that country rather than the allegations of Iraq's representative at the United Nations. Perhaps the best evidence in support of that judgment at this juncture is the official report of the launching of a space missile by Iraq earlier this week. The missile built jointly by France and Brazil and able to carry satellite into outerspace has been styled 'intelligence satellite.' About the same time news of Iraq's manufacturing of intercontinental missiles has been published with Iraqi Government threatening that it will use its new missile technology for attacking Iran in the event the peace talks should collapse.

"Another contradictory allegation by the Iraqis is their pretension to the principles of humanity, and their commitment to the freedom of war prisoners, which topic they are widely exploiting in a propaganda campaign with varying tactics.

"In the wake of his first meeting with the U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz said to reporters in relation with Iran's proposal for the simultaneous repatriation of war prisoners and withdrawal of Iraqi forces to internationally-recognized borders that Iraq is opposed to making the repatriation question contingent on the fulfillment of any other condition... Earlier on the Iraqi foreign minister had personally stated that Iraq would pull out of the Iranian territories only on condition that Iran acknowledge Iraq's sovereignty on the Arvand River, which latter condition, too, openly contradicts other statements by Iraqi officials.

"Another contradictory stand of the Iraqi Government is that it openly pretends commitment to relevant Geneva conventions for repatriation of prisoners. According to the international Geneva conventions war prisoners of warring states should be repatriated at the earliest date after cessation of hostilities and the topic has apparently lent Iraq much room for propoganda maneuvers. Nonetheless according to the texts of same conventions as long as one of the warring states continues to occupy any portion of the territories of the other state hostilities are not considered to have ceased. Therefore, because the Iraqi Government continues to occupy Iranian soil hostilities between the two countries cannot be considered to have ceased, and consequently the first condition yet to be fulfilled for repatriation of war prisoners is withdrawal of Iraqi troops from the Iranian soil....

"While the Iraqi regime refuses to pull out from the Iranian soil as the first condition or cessation of hostilities, it claims: 'We sincerely believe that the U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 is a peace formula for Iran, Iraq and the entirety of the region.

'The world as well as the person of Mr Secretary General of the United Nations and its Security Council should have already obviously identified Iraq's contradictory pretensions in that relation. Mr Secretary General, and the U.N. Security Council should not allow Iraq to postpone the repatriation of prisoners of war and establishment of peace in the region, or else they will have precipitated the region into unrest and re-kindled the half-extinguished fire at the fronts."

Iraq Rejects Prisoner of War Exchange Proposal

LD2212104789 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 22 Dec 89

[Text] The proposal by the Islamic Republic of Iran in connection with the exchange of sick and disabled prisoners of war, which was put to the Iraqi regime by the Middle East representative of the International Red Cross, was rejected by that regime last night. Previously, another Iranian proposal pertaining to the simultaneous withdrawal of forces to international borders, and the release of prisoners of war, was also rejected by Baghdad.

Fifty Sick Iraqi Prisoners To Be Released

LD2512110789 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Dec 89

[Text] After talks between our country's authorities and the United Nations in connection with the release of a number of disabled and sick POWs, the Islamic Republic of Iran, in view of its humanitarian principles and of the personal request of the UN secretary general, has informed the International Red Cross of its willingness to release 50 disabled and sick Iraqi POWs.

According to the Central News Unit, at a meeting with officials of the International Red Cross, Iran declared its agreement to the release and mutual repatriation of all the two countries' disabled and sick POW's.

Our country's Foreign Ministry expressed the hope that International Red Cross officials will be able to persuade Iraq to carry out Iran's proposal and bring about an end to the suffering of POWs and allow their return to their families.

Mohtashemi, Nabavi Answer Students' Questions

NC2512145789 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 13 Dec 89 p 20

[Excerpts] Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Mohtashemi, Abolqasem Sarhaddizadeh, Eng Behzad Nabavi, and Seyyed Kazem Akrami, the candidates of the Ruhaniyun-e Mobarez-e Tehran and the Office for the Strengthening of Solidarity, accepted an invitation by the latter office to participate in a question and answer session with students. [passage omitted]

Asked about his image, created by world media, as the leading force behind the Lebanese Hizballah and a challenger to Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Mohtashemi said: There is no doubt that I support the Lebanese Hizballah, but I deny that I am the leader of the Hizballah or that I have links with the Hizballah in the Lebanon. The Lebanese Hizballah supports the Islamic revolution, but this does not mean that it receives orders from Iran.

On the question about support for Hashemi-Rafsanjani, I wish to state that he is one of the noble stalwarts of the revolution and one who endured tribulations prior to the revolution. We believe it is our obligation to support him and his government. However, as was the case in the previous government, it is possible that problems may arise. If we do have some problems or criticism, we will raise them in a friendly manner and enemies have no right to label this as "opposition."

Asked about the doubts raised over his qualifications, Eng Behzad Nabavi said that the supervisory committee's action was illegal. When the executive committee endorses the qualifications of an individual, then the supervisory committee has nothing to do with the case. In cases where the executive committee disqualifies a candidate, then the supervisory committee is authorized to conduct an inquiry or investigation at that individual's request. Because my qualifications had beed endorsed, there was no reason for the supervisory committee to check them.

The interior minister himself telephoned me and said: Everything regarding your candidacy is legal. Please continue your activity. The point they raised was a vague one concerning a lack of practical undertakings with regard to Islam and the revolution!! Fortunately, however, the Council of Guardians rejected this illegal action by the supervisory committee and declared it null and void. [passage omitted]

Mr Mohtashemi declared his vehement opposition to the Nehzat-e Azadi and said: The system calls for wholesome political activity by parties and factions and not looking to the East or the West. He then read out the text of the letter by Imam Khomeyni (may God be pleased with him) regarding the ban on political activity by the Nehzat-e Azadi. He said: We should never allow them to operate. [passage omitted]

On the question of rumors, Mr Mohtashemi said: I hereby inform all the people and officials that any action that tarnishes the reputation of the revolution or the system is a betrayal of the imam and any action that harms the government of Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani is an unforgivable crime. I endorse any action against Israel and I will do everything possible, either in or out of the Majles, to combat the strengthening of the impression that it is possible to have any links with the United States in the future, be it by means of argument and reasoning or through discussions with the deputies or Foreign Ministry officials. As regards hostage-taking, we are opposed to all kinds of terrorist actions, as is evident from other answers. Why is it that no one says anything if the United States, Great Britain, Israel, and France send warships to Lebanon, kill people in south Lebanon, and make Muslims their captives and hostages, but there is an outcry around the world and the tyrannized Muslims are labeled terrorists if they take one of their kidnappers hostage? Is it wrong to catch a thief in one's own house? [passage omitted]

Kerman Candidate Answers Questionnaire

NC2412134289 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 13 Dec 89 p 8

[Text] ETTELA'AT questions to candidates:

1. Please tell us briefly the reason you want to be a Majles deputy and your field of specialization (with details of your academic qualifications). In what Majles committee do you think you will be able to serve effectively?
2. What were your political activities before and after the revolution? How long have you lived in your constituency and do you still reside there?
3. To what extent do you consider the third Majles successful and what are its strengths and weaknesses?
4. What, in your opinion, are the main problems facing the country and why?

5. What are the impediments to the elimination of social inequities and discrimination and the attainment of Islamic justice and inequality?
6. It has been repeatedly stressed that we need major basic laws and that the Executive and the Judiciary should cooperate with the Majles in their formulation and compilation. In your opinion, which subjects should be given priority in such a compilation?
7. Support of the oppressed has always been stressed by both houses of the Majles. Foregoing all slogans and rhetoric, in what specific fields and in what way can such support take place?
8. A great deal has been said about popular participation. On principle, who should participate and what form should this participation take?
9. What is the role of planning in the growth and development of the country and on what issues in general should this role be envisaged?
10. The Majles committees need specialized and enlightened experts in various fields. What is your opinion in this regard?

Asadollah Razavi, the candidate from Kerman gave the following reply:

While expressing thanks and appreciation for your willingness to reflect the opinions of the candidates in the midterm elections, I am sending you a list of answers, in numerical order, to the questions published in ETTELA'AT. You are fully authorized to make any changes for purposes of brevity or clarity, provided there is no change in the meaning.

In the name of God. Answers are as follows:
1. In view of the 10 constructive years and the 5-year plan and the need in the Islamic Majles for individuals who have felt the needs of their constituency and of education, including higher education, I felt a sense of responsibility.

I currently hold the post of lecturer of mathematics at the Martyr Bahonar University. (I have a doctorate in mathematics). I think that I will be able to serve on the Committees for Education and Higher Education.
2. I do not engage in any significant political activity. I have been a resident in my constituency from my birth until 1342 [1963] and then from 1360 [1981] until now.
3. Because the second Majles functioned during the time of the imposed war, it is difficult (and would be unjust) to pass any kind of judgment on its performance. However, the performance of the third Majles todate does not seem satisfactory.
4. The most outstanding problems now facing the country are cultural, economic, and scientific (in the field of research).
5. One of the greatest impediments is this very discrimination and the inability to take a just and drastic approach toward transgressors.
6. A supervision over the precise implementation of laws.
7. We should control the oppressors.
8. All the people [should participate] and in all fields—each in any field in which he has the ability to participate.
9. In the areas mentioned in my answer to question four.
10. I agree.

New Requirements for Foreign Study Ratified

LD2312230789 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 23 Dec 89

[Text] In the session convened by the Supreme Council of Cultural Revolution, the omission of the priorities' supplement in connection with the selection of scholarship and other candidates for studying abroad was ratified.

In this session, which was chaired by Mr Yazdi, president of the judicial branch, it was decided to add the following requirements for studying abroad to the existing requirements passed by the Majles: nonmembership in SAVAK, Freemasonary, any active participation in the Rastakhiz party, as well as effective operations aimed at consolidating the previous regime.

Also in this session it was agreed to reduce the period of the medical trainees' service in defensive regions from 45 days to 1 month.

Satellite Receiver, TV Transmitter in Sepidan

LD2412113789 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0730 GMT 24 Dec 89

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, installation work on the 14th ground satellite receiver together with a television transmitter with a capacity of 5 watts [as heard] has been completed in the village of Ab Obno in Sepidan.

With the operation of that satellite and transmitter, the residents of the villages of Obno and Bozanjan are able to receive the pictures of the first channel of the Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran on channel 7.

Large Quantity of Opium, Heroin Seized in Kerman

LD2412232889 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Dec 89

[Text] In continuation of the relentless and merciless fight against merchants of death, thanks to efforts of the Islamic Revolution Committee guards of Kerman and their watch and inspection of several vehicles, 140 kg of opium and heroin were seized last week. According to a report of the Central News Unit, in this connection nine professional smugglers, who were engaged in trafficking drugs in the Sistan va Baluchestan, Kerman, Fars, and Tehran Provinces, were arrested and handed over to the judicial authorities. On the basis of the same report, a passenger coach, which had loaded narcotics in the Sistan va Baluchestan Province and was heading for Fars Province, was inspected at a terminal by the guards of the Islamic Revolution Committee, and as a result 59 kg of narcotics, including 30 kg of heroin and 29 kg of opium, which was concealed in the coach, was discovered.

Pakistan

Bhutto Comments on Afghan Invasion Anniversary

BK2712162089 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Text] Rallies in various refugee camps and processions marked the 10th anniversary of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan today. In a statement on the occasion, the prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto, paid rich tributes to the people of Afghanistan for rising as one man in defense of their religion, nation, and freedom. She said on this day a superpower had intervened in that country to impose its own regime. This regime had no roots in the culture, tradition, and values of the Afghan people. The prime minister said the Afghans were made to pay a horrible price in millions killed, crippled, uprooted, and forced into exile. But they did not flinch in their sacred freedom struggle.

The prime minister said the people of Pakistan who stood by their Afghan brethren in their darkest hour take great pride in saluting them for setting an example of Islamic valor and faith that will inspire freedom-loving people all over the world.

Senators: Recognize Afghan Interim Government

BK2812112589 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 28 Dec 89

[Text] The Senate today had more discussions on the president's address to a joint session of parliament. Four members took part in the discussion. They all praised the president's address and said it was based on reality and pointed out the shortcomings of the government over the last 1 year. They called upon the government to take steps to enforce the Islamic code of life.

On foreign relations, they urged the government to recognize the Afghan interim government immediately and for effective measures to solve the Kashmir dispute in accordance with the aspirations of the people of Kashmir.

Defense Minister Meets PRC Premier in Beijing

BK2812032089 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 28 Dec 89

[Text] Chinese Premier Li Peng has said that Pakistani-Chinese friendship can be described as a model of countries with two different systems getting along in friendship. Irrespective of the changes in the world, the relations between the two countries have been solid and stable. He expressed these views when he met with the Pakistani military delegation led by the minister of state for defense, Ghulam Sarwar Cheema, in Beijing. The Chinese premier said the process of cooperation and exchanges in all sectors between the two countries will be further strengthened.

The minister of state said that Pakistani-Chinese friendship is world famous and that the recent visit of the Chinese premier to Pakistan has greatly enhanced the friendly relations and cooperation between the two countries.

JANG Publishes Interview With Benazir Bhutto

BK2612094589 Lahore JANG in Urdu 19 Nov 89 p 1

[Interview with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto by Mir Shakilur Rahman of JANG; date, place not given]

[Text] Rawalpindi, (JANG report)—Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has said that the proposal for a broad-based government was made with a spirit of understanding, and anyone willing to work in this spirit is welcome. Ours is a national party with roots throughout the country, and we have never been engaged in a power game, nor are we at present. The people do not like power games. However, what is happening now is a game of power and money. We detest those who can be bought or sold.

In an interview with Mir Shakilur Rahman of JANG, the prime minister said that our opponents like to shoot at us while keeping their guns on the shoulders of the president, the chief of the Army staff, and the United States. However, we believe in our inner strength.

The prime minister was asked to explain in categorical terms the broad-based government proposed by her and her colleagues and whether she was considering offering the positions of deputy prime minister, finance minister, or defense minister.

[Bhutto] Our Constitution does not provide for a post of deputy prime minister; therefore, no one can become a deputy prime minister. The government was elected in order to implement its manifesto. The government's manifesto cannot be implemented when the critical areas [preceding two words in English] are given to those who have resorted to deficit financing in the past and destroyed the country's economy. I made the offer out of a spirit of understanding, and if anyone wants to work in this spirit and cooperate, then we are ready, for the sake of democracy. However, if they are only power-hungry and intend to secure power by any means, it is a different matter.

We have objectives, targets, and a destination before us. We want a federal, democratic, and constitutional country; we would like to see fulfillment of the dream of a welfare state; and we want socioeconomic equality. This is why we were given a mandate. If anyone supports these things and cooperates with us in this, then it is very good. However, if they do not cooperate, we are not going to join in the game of politics; neither have we engaged in this game. We have some set targets; we are a political party, a national party with its roots throughout the country. We are of the people and will stay with them. So, do not tell me that people should bargain for power. If anyone wants to talk about the principles or identify the areas of joint action and cooperation, we are ready to consider it.

Regarding the understanding, I would say that one should not think of power alone. One should see what steps can be taken to restore the confidence between the government and the opposition and determine the areas in which positive cooperation is possible. The people also feel this way; they do not like the power game. However, what we see these days is a game of power and money.

Who possesses sovereignty? According to our Constitution, sovereignty belongs to God, or to the common people of Pakistan, irrespective of rich or poor. However, what we see is that money has supreme authority. Some people have turned out to be like trading commodities. We abhor it, and do not patronize this sort of politics. Of course, if anyone wants to discuss principles and programs and talk about the people's welfare, our doors are open to him. And if anyone wants to suggest to us ways that lead to the country's progress, we are also ready for it. However, if anyone comes to talk only about power, I think it is insulting. A very difficult situation is ahead. Steps should first be taken to restore confidence and identify areas of joint action and cooperation. When we invited the opposition to adopt a unanimous strategy on the Commonwealth and to cooperate with us on foreign policy, they refused. What kind of joint action and cooperation is that? I think that if such negative attitudes are abandoned, it will pave the way for stabilizing the rule of the Constitution and democratic institutions in the country. However, if the negative, destructive attitude persists, then, I think, it will be a great injustice to our people.

[Rahman] A few days before and after the no-confidence motion, and even now, there has been the impression that President Ghulam Ishaq Khan or General Beg or some other military personnel played a role in urging the Muhajir Qaumi Movement [MQM] to join the Islamic Democratic Alliance [IDA]. The MQM leaned toward the IDA after it was persuaded by someone. What do you think about this?

[Bhutto] I think such remarks are irresponsible, and that there should be an end to irresponsible talk. As far as the president and the prime minister or the chief of the Army staff or other service chiefs are concerned, they have relations between them and they trust each other. They should have the opportunity to talk with each other in an atmosphere of mutual trust. The people should not resort to unfair practices. I know that some people said "she has to go" because the president is against her, the United States is against her, and the Army chief is against her. Therefore, she has to go. These people are trying to fire shots while keeping the gun on someone else's shoulder. They would not have tried to do so if they had their own strength. On the other hand, we believe in our own strength. We are here today not because of anyone's favor. We have been elected by the people. They have selected us not to sit idle. We have been given the responsibility of serving the nation and the people. We have been elected for these positions. It hurts me when I read in newspapers that some people are trying to drag others into politics. This is a democracy. No one says that the United Kingdom has asked me to do so. [sentence as published] We should avoid these things. It should be our endeavor to ensure that we do not drag the responsible persons of various institutions in the country into party politics. The president has a constitutional role, the service chiefs have their own roles, others have their respective roles, and foreign countries have their roles as well. We try to drag them into our own controversies. I am not in favor of this. There should be mutual trust between the president and I and again between others and I so we can freely talk with each other in the interest of the country.

We have to ensure that we keep our matters among ourselves so they can be properly settled, thereby contributing to the country's benefit. There should not be any tension. I have a feeling that there are some forces in this country that only want to create tension. It started with Salman Rushdie's book. The people's feelings about the book were justifiable, but the way they were manipulated and the attempts that were made to make it an issue in the country cannot be justified. Apart from this, a negative attitude was adopted during the budget announcement. Time and again, a negative attitude is adopted. In the interests of the people and the Constitution, I think we should not adopt negative attitudes. Unfortunately, negative politics are a legacy of the past. However, our elected government will not resort to negative politics to deal with negative politics.

[Rahman] There has been considerable tension among the people on the appointment of judges. There were reports of differences between the president and the prime minister. The foreign press, and the people as well, even said they were not talking with each other for a long time.

[Bhutto] It is not correct that we did not [as published] stop talking totally. I was always ready for talks. Sometimes we talked directly and sometimes it was through mutual friends. Sometimes we wrote to each other. We never stopped talking and always talked with each other. As far as the president and the prime minister are concerned, both of us are elected and we have to follow the constitutional provisions. Both of the positions are necessary for the country and it is in the particular interest of the country to keep talks between them private [preceding word in English]. I am surprised to hear you say that the case of the president and the prime minister even went to the court. Why should the president and the prime minister think so about each other? Why should they think they can go to the court? There was some M.D. Taher and he went to Lahore High Court. Neither the president nor the prime minister sent him to the court. He was a common citizen, and he went to court. The court then gave a verdict. The president and the prime minister could not understand what they were supposed to do in light of the verdict and what exactly it meant. It was in the interests of both the president and the prime minister—that is, the government—to refer to the Supreme Court and seek a clarification of the Lahore High Court verdict. Where else, but the court, should we go for a clarification on any matter? Neither the president nor I moved the court. What connection do the president or I have with M.D. Taher? He went to the court on his own, but we had to seek clarification from the Supreme Court anyway. Both of us are part of the government and we wanted guidance from the court. That is all.

[Rahman] One more impression is that the People's Party government or you are facing obstacles from the president or the Armed Forces in running the country's affairs. Is it true that your hands are tied and you cannot run governmental affairs freely?

[Bhutto] Some people are speculating about these things. They want to fire guns from someone else's shoulder. I do not understand why they do not engage in constructive politics. Why do they not see the reforms undertaken by the government—the labor reforms, the economic reforms, and the energy sector reforms—and how 2,600 villages were provided with electricity this year? Such a massive electrification program has not been carried out before in the history of Pakistan. No such major program to provide Sui gas to people was implemented earlier. The people now have electricity and gas at their disposal. Their life is gradually changing.

The president and the prime minister, the prime minister and other government institutions, and the governors and the chief ministers are all parts in the governmental machinery. We should have talks between us and we should have debates and arguments between us. One should not try to get any unfair gains out of this. I do not think it is the correct way. I feel that those who lost the election would like to see a tussle between the president and the prime minister, to see the United States dissatisfied with the Pakistani Government, to see the chief of the Army Staff or chief of something else do something, so they can have an opportunity. This does not happen in a democratic state. Under a democratic system, the government should have an opportunity to function. Actually, this opportunity has been given to the people who elected the government. What is a government? It is like a mother; there is nothing comparable to a government. It should be given a chance to implement its policies, such as those I mentioned—provision of electricity and gas, education, rehabilitation of loss-ridden industries, and development of heavy industries like steel mills.

Attention should be paid to the heavy mechanical complex. Attention should be paid to Pakistan's prestige. Attention should be paid to human rights in Pakistan. Pakistan is gaining prestige, and the country's people are becoming more conscious. The nation is gaining new life, and it will benefit all people. However, there is a handful of people who think they will have an opportunity if there is a dispute between the president and the prime minister. This is very frustrating. A lot of criticism has already been made, and I told the Parliament earlier that my doors were open. If I say that my doors are open and they come and ask whether I would give them the Ministry of Defense or Finance, then it would only be a matter of seeking power. However, if they come and say that, well, you say your doors are open, so we are also patriotic and we want to restore the environment of cooperation in Pakistan, then it is all right. You might say that you will not accept the IDA, I might say that I will. Of course, there are differences among us on some issues, but there are areas of cooperation as well, and we can cooperate in those areas. The people will also see that we are cooperating in the greater interest of the nation and they will support us. However, if they see that it is only a power game, it will lead to frustration. In such a situation, the frustration will not be with one particular individual or group. It will be with the entire democratic system. And no democratic-minded person wants such a situation.

[Rahman] The opposition, I mean the Combined Opposition Parties [COP], says that it will not negotiate until the Pakistan People's Party [PPP] invites it directly for talks. The opposition feels that the PPP should invite it directly in order to prove its sincerity in a dialogue.

[Bhutto] We are trying to figure out whether it would be useful to invite the opposition directly or to hold talks with moderate political elements. They did not respond positively when we held talks with the opposition in the past. It is also a challenge to the COP to prove in Parliament that they enjoy the support of more than 80 members. Because, according to a report, they numbered at either 68 or 70 at the COP meeting in Quetta. Add 10 more to this, then it comes out to 80 only. Moreover, some of them have already said that they would not support any further no-confidence motion against the government in Parliament. Whatever their numerical strength, whether 80 or 50, I told them that they were welcome if they wanted negotiations. However, they should engage in positive politics. Read their statements; they are repeatedly saying that they will again present a no-confidence motion in Parliament. It seems like a joke.

We have not rejected the idea of inviting them, provided they adopt a positive approach without which it would be futile to invite them. After all, there should be some objectives, we should identify the areas of cooperation. What should I discuss with them? If I call the COP and ask its leaders what they would like to discuss with the government on the Afghan policy, they will start fighting with each other. One will plead for recognizing the Afghanistan Government; another will oppose it. There should be some meaningful talks and a common basis for them.

Again, with whom should we talk? The COP has so many leaders. There is a parliamentary leader and other regional leaders. There is Junejo, who is not a member of Parliament either. There are chief ministers and others as well. What I would like to say is that my doors are always open for negotiations. Since we did not get a positive response from the COP, why should we rush? This is why we have started informal talks with those with whom I had contact before the no-confidence motion. If we felt it would be useful to hold talks with the COP and that it would have a positive approach, we would have done so. But what does the COP do? It adopts a negative attitude, spreads rumors, and engages in slander campaigns.

Who is [COP leader] Jatoi? He was groomed by my father. I have known Jatoi since I was a student at the convent. He used to visit our house. His son lived a life in exile. His son came to me once seeking my assistance in some matter. I told him I would listen to what he had to say, but if anything went wrong he should not think that it was a matter of ego. I did not have anything egoistic.

What matters is that if talks are held, there should be an outcome as well. The government will have to think with whom it should hold negotiations—the COP parliamentary leader or the IDA parliamentary leader or the IDA president. It also has to ascertain with whom the talks will be fruitful. The government should also see with whom there are greater prospects of cooperation. And, obviously, the government will hold negotiations with someone with whom it has greater prospects of cooperation. Today's COP is not the same as it was on the day it moved a no-confidence motion in Parliament. It made a mistake in calling a meeting at Quetta and asking its members to attend, because their numbers were reduced when they attended that meeting. Anyway, I do not like to go into their numbers, whether 50 or 80. I feel there should be positive politics. And, if there is an identifiable area of cooperation and joint action politics, why should we not cooperate?

[Rahman] Has the People's Party's position been strengthened or weakened after the no-confidence motion?

[Bhutto] We understand that our position has been strengthened and theirs has been weakened. However, I would add here that I do not like a permanent situation like this. Negative politics are harmful for the country. This is why we ask the opposition what they have achieved by resorting to negative politics in the last year. Since we started talking about an understanding, you have to think it over; you have to think about the country and its poor people. Who suffers due to your attitude? It is the poor people. You resorted to negative politics and arrested the Federal Investigation Agency officers, attacked national registration offices, sent a separate provincial sports team to Oman, set up a separate bank, and planned to set up a separate television and water and power development authority. Who has suffered in all this? The country has suffered. Why should the country be made a victim?

[Rahman] There is a feeling....

[Bhutto] I think this should be the last question.

[Rahman] There is a feeling that the PPP's position has been weakened. Earlier, it had the MQM, the Awami National Party [ANP], the Fazlur Rahman group [of Pakistan Muslim League], and elements of the Movement for the Restoration of Democracy with it. They are no longer with the PPP, and this has weakened the party's position.

[Bhutto] Of course, the MQM and ANP were with us before. But the MQM suddenly deceived and abandoned us. We had a difference of opinion with the ANP on the appointment of a governor. You might recall that Rahman's party abstained [preceding word in English] in the past as well. However, we still hope they will extend their cooperation in the interests of the nation and the democratic process.

[Rahman] Are you in favor of making the defection clause in the Constitution more effective or not, or do you think that the present way is satisfactory?

[Bhutto] I think that despite the defection clause, it cannot be made effective for a member defecting a party. If he is not elected on a party symbol, then, obviously, he can change parties. It is difficult to say to what extent the problem can be solved by the defection clause. This is a problem relating to values. The point is that the people's verdict should be accepted and the people's voice should be upheld. These are the problems. It will be good for the nation if positive politics emerge in the new year. Despite all the odds, we performed to the maximum in the last year in all sectors, including defense and socioeconomy, and we will continue our work in this regard. We will also continue our policy of reconciliation, and we hope the opposition will review its posture and pursue the politics of tolerance and moderation.

THE MUSLIM on Ties With India, Nuclear Issue

BK2612110289 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 7 Dec 89 p 4

[Editorial: "India 'Bully' No More?"]

[Text] The Pakistan Foreign Office has done well to make an uncharacteristically quick response to the new Indian Prime Minister's remarks on the prickly nuclear question. Islamabad's official reaction in this case is all the more remarkable as it has been occasioned not by any formal policy statement made by Mr V.P. Singh after assuming the office of Indian prime ministership, but by a detailed interview he gave to a Gulf-based newspaper.

The highlights of the two press briefings conducted by the official spokesman of the Foreign Office at Islamabad on Tuesday [5 December] and Wednesday in this regard incorporate two related aspects. First, a reiteration of Pakistan's proposals made from time to time to keep South Asia free of the nuclear menace and, secondly, the progress achieved so far on the bilateral Pakistan-India agreement not to attack each other's nuclear facilities, announced during the then Indian premier Mr Rajiv Gandhi's visit to Islamabad in December 1988 to attend the summit conference of SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] countries.

Mr V.P. Singh had in his press interview, while conceding that there was "no harm" in the idea of the two Prime Ministers discussing the nuclear question, maintained that since, "according to reports," Pakistan was "fairly advanced in the art of bomb-making," the initiative for the purpose should come from Islamabad. The Pakistan Foreign Office thus came out with a narration of the number of well-known proposals initiated by Islamabad to ensure non-nuclearisation of the region. The official spokesman noted correctly that it was New Delhi which had so far failed to respond to any of these moves.

If the new Indian regime's expression of desire to improve the country's relations with all its neighbours is more than just rhetoric, Mr V.P. Singh should find it possible to make these long-standing Pakistani proposals as the beginning point for meaningful bilateral talks on the issue which he has himself described as "very vital." As it is, it is not very reassuring to note that the agreement not to attack each other's nuclear facilities may not come into force in the immediate future. That is evident in the lack of progress achieved in the finalisation of all requisite formalities, as outlined by the official spokesman on Wednesday.

Each change of regime at New Delhi or Islamabad does provide an opportunity for the two countries to reappraise their chequered relationship. However, the difficulty for Mr V.P. Singh in taking any bold new initiatives for improvement of India's relations with any of its estranged neighbours, could be posed by the character and composition of the fragile regime he is to preside over. Apart from the relevance of the crucial support of the Hindu revivalist Bharatiya Janata Party whose antipathy for Pakistan in particular is no secret, it is hard to foretell the exent to which Mr Singh and his Janata Dal colleagues in government would themselves be amenable to any positive policy changes in this connection.

After all, Mr Singh's Janata Dal and the other constituent parties in the National Front may have successfully challenged Mr Rajiv Gandhi on charges of corruption and inefficiency, but never on the undercurrents of India's hostile posture in the neighbourhood. The new regime at Delhi may turn out to be different in many ways, but it is in the main a product of the Congress culture which is at one on national Indian priorities and goals in the global arena. Even in his first press interview, Mr Singh did not go beyond describing as "counter-productive" the image which the country's smaller neighbours have of India as the regional bully.

General Beg Rules Out Political Role for Army

BK2612102289 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 11 Dec 89 pp 1, 6

[By Maleeha Lodhi]

[Text] Sargodha, Dec. 10—Depicting Zarb-i-Momin, the exercise now underway, as demonstration of the people's military will, General Mirza Aslam Beg said this is designed to match and support the political will of the nation, that has already asserted itself.

At a briefing cum question-answer session with the press at the Army Control Headquarters in Sargodha, the Chief of Army Staff repeatedly emphasised the professional role of the military.

He said this professional army, by demonstrating its military capability, "provides a great advantage to the government in power to seek peace through negotiations." Weakness, he said, invites aggression, citing Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Maldives and Afghanistan as examples of this.

"Today", General Beg told newsmen gathered in a dome-shaped tent, "our army is a well-knit and professional force, capable of giving "a bloody nose to any enemy that attempts to launch an offensive against Pakistan. [no closing quotation mark as published] He described this capability as "a gift of the Pakistan Army to the government of the day."

General Beg said the Army had come "a long way" since 1971 when half the country was lost, the army defeated, and the nation left demoralised. "Today the people of Pakistan have asserted their political will. What you see here today is an effort to assert the military will so that the people can see what the military might of Pakistan is all about."

In his hour and a half long exchange with the press, the first since his September 13 briefing, the Army Chief punctuated his conversation with references to the "march of history", emphasising the need to correctly understand this in order to move with it rather than be swept away by its "strong current".

He also sought to allay any doubts that the military exercise involving 200,000 people and costing about Rs. [rupees] 160 million had any political objective. He said the main purpose of the exercise is to "help refine our concepts, tactics and dogmas". The exercise was aimed at evaluating a major shift in Pakistan's strategic doctrine and testing the Pakistan Army's capability to launch a large-scale offensive.

"It is not aimed at self-projection", he declared emphatically. "Nor does it have any political objectives." If it had involved any political objectives he said "I would be sitting in cantonments to scheme and plan, not in the battlefield." The aim of the exercise, he said was to rebuild confidence, to give the army a "new image of their own that they can live with."

In response to a question the Army Chief flatly ruled out the need for any constitutionally guaranteed political role for the military. "Our role" he said, "is to provide strength to the country, to the government, as an instrument of national power."

To a question about the future of Indo-Pakistan relations, General Beg said that words of friendship from Delhi had not been matched by deeds. In fact he said the Indians had backed out of an agreement to resolve the Siachen Glacier dispute. He said, he did not see any positive signs from India other than simply words. For there to be any meaningful normalisation of relations between the two countries, "friction points" had to be resolved, he added.

General Beg seemed reluctant to answer questions on Afghanistan, saying that it is the responsibility of the government to handle the problem and it was handling it in an "admirable manner". The Army, he repeated several times, was not involved with the issue. However, he did voice optimism over the future, saying that the Mujahidin's tactics of strangulation and laying seige to PDPA [People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan] forces will eventually culminate in final victory, which the Kabul regime may be able to delay but not deny.

The General said that the Mujahidin's strategy was no longer to capture any city in a frontal assault but a low-intensity, interdiction operation of seige and strangulation, which he said, would continue. Alongside that, the Mujahidin were also working for a political settlement. Soon, he said, they will put forward a political formula for a solution of the problem.

He pointed to the dismantlement of the Berlin Wall and changes in Poland, Hungary and other East European countries to pose the question that if all this can happen, how can the PDPA survive.

General Beg was profuse in his praise of the press over what he called its heartwarming response to his earlier briefing of 13th September. He said this had encouraged him to meet the press again and invite journalists to come and see the Pakistan Army and to judge its professionalism and capability for themselves. The briefing was also attended by Lt. General Hamid Gul, Commander II Corps and Chief Control and Umpire of Exercise Zarb-i-Momin.

After the briefing, General Beg hosted a lunch for the visiting media teams, during which he chatted informally with journalists.

Sri Lanka

Premadasa Sees Dawning of 'Auspicious Era'

BK2712111589 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0741 GMT 27 Dec 89

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 27 Dec (LANKAPUVATH)—Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa said on Saturday [23 December] that he could see the dawning of an auspicious era for Sri Lanka.

"This era promises peace and prosperity, brotherhood and mutual understanding with the rights of all sections of the community guaranteed", he remarked.

He was addressing a public meeting at the Negombo Town Hall to mark the 40th anniversary of the Negombo Municipal Council.

The president in a wide-ranging speech expressed optimism about the future of SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] and the international political spectrum. He referred also to the prospect of closer ties with India.

He said: "I can see an atmosphere conducive to an exemplary friendship, co-operation and co-existence developing both here and in India since Mr V.P. Singh took office as prime minister of India. Therefore, I am confident we shall succeed in finding solutions to the problems in the north east".

He said a situation in which SAARC countries could work in co-operation to achieve their common goals while preserving their sovereignty was fast taking shape. This was a new trend and people could be happy about it.

"People of India, particularly those who backed the present Indian prime minister uphold Sri Lanka's sovereignty. They are prepared to work in co-operation with us and have a good understanding of the problems we face. The Indian mass media has been very considerate and we have received the support of Indian intellectuals as well", he observed.

President Premadasa said "I also see a favourable climate emerging in the South Asian region. In this region a favourable climate is emerging where different countries will be able to live their lives preserving their independence. We must be happy about it. In India today the people have established a new government under the leadership of Prime Minister V.P. Singh. All sections of this government accept the sovereignty and the independence of Sri Lanka and have expressed their willingness to co-operate with Sri Lanka to resolve problems affecting the two countries. There seems to be an appreciation of the troubles we were subjected to. In the recent times the mass media of India showed due sympathy towards us. This new attitude was visible not only in the newspapers but also in the thinking of Indian intellectuals. After the election of the new government, I feel, a new atmosphere has arisen where the two countries can follow a policy of co-operation and co-existence and maintain very good brotherly relations between them. This opens a possibility for us to find solutions to the problems in the north and east of the country. Almost every militant group in the north and east is today in the process of entering the democratic process".

The president further said "I foresee the dawn of a new era in Sri Lanka where all communities will live in brotherhood enjoying equal rights. I foresee much assistance from India. All the other countries in the region like Pakistan, Maldive islands, Bhutan, Bangladesh and Nepal are friendly countries and this friendship will undoubtedly flourish in the future.

These countries have a very big population and they are good potential markets. When friendly relations with them are consolidated, opportunities will open for us to benefit from them. These countries can very well get together and formulate an economic plan for the common advancement of all. The South Asian countries will be able to find markets for their products among their own countries to a great extent and benefit greatly from trade among themselves. If these countries only work together with understanding there will be a wonderful opportunity for development through mutual co-operation. We also maintain friendly relations with other countries of the world—European countries, America and Australia to mention a few.

The world which was sharply divided as political camps is today coming together for common objectives. All countries are today heading towards democracy and a democratic economic system. The re-structuring of the system now taking place in the Soviet Union under President Mikhail Gorbachev has proved a great example to so many other countries. The changes now taking place in China also are very encouraging. In this context I foresee the dawn of a new and prosperous era not only to South Asia but to the whole world.

9 'Subversives' Killed in 26 Dec Clash in Kandy

BK2712111189 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0726 GMT 27 Dec 89

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Dec 27 (LANKAPUVATH)—Nine subversives were killed in an exchange of fire which ensued when a police patrol was attacked by subversives in Kandy yesterday. A government communique issued today states that at Ududumbara in the Central Province district of Kandy, a police patrol was attacked by subversives. In the exchange of fire nine subversives were killed and 27 rounds of 7.62 ammunition, 7 cartridges and 7 rounds of 9-mm ammunition were recovered. The communique further states that in a separate security forces operation one subversive was killed in the same area.

In the Sabaragamuwa Province District of Kegalle, one subversive was shot dead by the security force, while one other was shot dead by the security forces during an operation in Matale.

Following the surrender of 155 TNA [Tamil National Army] members to the Sri Lankan Army in Polonnaruwa, Monday, security forces arrested 19 TNA members and recovered 10 rifles with 72 magazines, 2 LMG's [light machineguns] with 16 magazines, 3 rocket launchers with one rocket, 1 mortar with 8 mortar bombs, 10 detonators, 12,280 rounds of 7.62 ammunition, 1,830, 7.62 ammunition and 16 hand grenades.

The communique also states that three persons surrendered to the government agent in Amparai while one other gave himself up to the security forces in Kurunegala. The train from Talaimannar to Anuradhapura was fired at, near Cheddikulam, in Vavuniya. Security forces returned fire forcing the attackers to flee, the communique states.

JVP Politburo Member Killed In Peradeniya

BK2712112189 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1017 GMT 27 Dec 89

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Dec 27 (LANKAPUVATH)—A subversive described by police as a member of the JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna] Politburo and the co-ordinator for a number of districts was shot dead in a confrontation with police in the early hours of yesterday morning, in the Peradeniya, Central Province, 70 miles from Colombo. Police told LANKAPUVATH that the high ranking JVP (?member) also carried an identity card indicating that he worked in the auditor general's department. They said the identity card carried the name Lalith Wijeratne.

Police also killed three other subversives and seized a revolver and a shot gun in the incident which occurred at 0430 hours (local time). Police said a squad of policemen who were sent out to investigate a tip-off relating to a subversives hideout in Peradeniya were attacked by subversives. The four, including the Politburo member, were killed in the ensuing shootout. He was also the JVP co-ordinator for the Trincomalee, Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa and Kurunegala districts, security sources said.

Tamil Leader Views 'Setback' to Ethnic Issue

BK2612113189 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 26 Dec 89

[Text] The leader of the All Ceylon Tamil Congress, Kumar Ponnambalam, explained the difficulties and problems that have surfaced in finding a solution to the ethnic problem in Sri Lanka. Mr Ponnambalam, expressing his views on the SLBC's [Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation's] program, said that in finding solutions to national, ethnic, and people's problems, there are more crucial issues to be settled first. Some of these more important issues are the problems of the militants in the north and the south and the economic issues. The other important issue is the Indo-Sri Lanka relationship. Mr Ponnambalam explained that these issues have been a setback to the resolution of the ethnic problem.

The Tamil political parties have been disillusioned. The Tamil Congress leader said the reason for this is the evolution of several Tamil militant groups. The infighting among these groups has resulted in the elimination of their cadres. In the resultant confusion, the ethnic problem has become of secondary importance. Mr Ponnambalam said that even the issue of their leadership is in question. He said that though the Sinhala population was agreeable to finding a solution to the ethnic problem, the Indian mediation has resulted in its being sidetracked. He said that from January 1984 to July 1987, the opportunity was there to establish ethnic harmony among the Sinhala, Tamil, and Muslim population, which has now been sidetracked.